

Overview of proposed amendments to

Part 6, Substance Specific Requirements Sections 6.44 to 6.58, Cytotoxic Drugs

The *Occupational Health and Safety Regulation*, in part, requires that all mixing, preparation and priming of administrative sets with a cytotoxic drug be performed in a designated Class II Type B biological safety cabinet (section 6.53).

Administrative sets of cytotoxic drugs delivered by syringe are often primed outside a biological safety cabinet (e.g., in a clinic, doctor's office, or client's home) prior to injection, in contravention with the regulations. The priming of syringes containing cytotoxic drugs need not be done inside a biological safety cabinet because the risk of exposure to the cytotoxic drugs during this activity is low if appropriate precautions/procedures are followed.

In light of the low risk of exposure to cytotoxic drugs when priming a syringe, and given that in many cases priming an administrative set in a safety cabinet is impractical, the proposed amendments permit, in accordance with safe work procedures, the priming of syringes containing cytotoxic drugs outside a safety cabinet.