

Best Nursing Practices for Hazardous Drug Safety

Chronic exposure to hazardous drugs is associated with chromosomal damage. Documented side-effects of exposure include dermatologic reactions, headache, reproductive issues and cancer. Dermatologic absorption is the primary route of exposure. Along with following your institution's policies, appropriate steps should be taken to avoid nursing practices that can result in exposure and environmental contamination.


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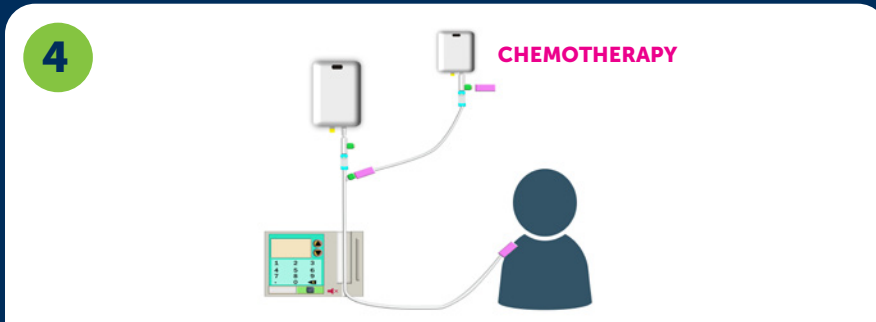
Avoid priming IV tubing with hazardous drugs at the bedside.


2

Avoid spiking and unspiking IV containers.


3

Never disconnect IV tubing containing hazardous drugs without wearing PPE. **Ensure** all luer connections are tight.


4

Use Closed System Transfer Devices (CSTDs) wherever there is a connection or disconnection point.


5

Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) even if CSTDs are used.


6
Glove Down
Cuff Over
2nd Glove On
Extend Over Cuff

PPE consists of two pairs of chemotherapy-tested gloves (to avoid self-contamination while doffing), and a chemotherapy-resistant gown.

7

How Tested Is Your PPE?



Gloves should be tested by the manufacture for ALL drugs being administered.

8



Gowns must be closed in the front, closable in the rear, and have long sleeves with elastic cuffs.

9



Avoid reusing a gown once removed.

10



Face and eye protection must be worn if there is a risk of splashing (e.g., in-travesicular administration).

11



Respiratory protection should be used when cleaning a spill.

13



Build a culture of safety by adopting a zero-tolerance approach.

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