

Competence Assessment for Compounding Hazardous Drugs

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Updated from



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LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Recognize hazardous drugs.
- Discuss the precautions required when working with hazardous drugs.
- Describe the key elements for decontaminating and cleaning areas used for compounding hazardous drugs.
- Discuss the components of a recommended medical surveillance program for those who compound hazardous drugs.

Note: This chapter includes the provisions required by USP Chapter <800> Hazardous Drugs—Handling in Healthcare Settings, which will become official on December 1, 2019. ASHP is updating the “ASHP Guidelines on Handling Hazardous Drugs,” which are expected to be published by early 2018. Recommendations in the revised ASHP guidelines will supersede the requirements in the current recommendations.

OVERVIEW

Compounding hazardous drugs requires skill in preparation, as well as protection of the compounding personnel. Injectable oncology agents comprise the majority of hazardous drugs compounded, but agents for other routes of administration and other conditions are also prepared. Competence for compounding hazardous drugs includes written and verbal instruction and review of practices for both sterile and nonsterile compounding. An overview of nonsterile compounding can be found in Chapter 48: Compounding Nonsterile Preparations and an overview of sterile compounding can be found in Chapter 46: Compounding Sterile Preparations (Murdaugh LB, *Competence Assessment Tools for Health-System Pharmacies*, 5th ed., ASHP, 2015).

In addition to the ASHP videos and publications listed in Chapter 46, the video and workbook *Compounding Hazardous Drugs* provides a bridge between didactic instruction and practical skills.¹ Three other resources are critical to knowledge concerning hazardous drugs:

1. ASHP Guidelines on Handling Hazardous Drugs² (<https://www.ashp.org/-/media/assets/policy-guidelines/docs/guidelines-handling-hazardous-drugs.ashx>)
2. NIOSH Alert: Preventing Occupational Exposure to Antineoplastic and Other Hazardous Drugs in Health Care Settings³ (www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2004-165/pdfs/2004-165.pdf)
3. NIOSH List of Antineoplastic and Other Hazardous Drugs in Healthcare Settings, 2016⁴ (www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/antineoplastic/pdf/hazardous-drugs-list_2016-161.pdf)

Completion of written materials is not sufficient to demonstrate competence to compound hazardous drugs. Manipulation of safe and accurate preparations must be demonstrated to a skilled compounder. Competence must be reassessed on a regular basis.

Individuals who compound hazardous drugs must be mentally and physically able to perform accurate calculations and precise and repetitive manipulations; maintain aseptic technique for those preparations