



**Caution: You Are Administering Hazardous Drugs.  
Are You Using Safe Handling Practices?**

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**Summary:** This presentation reviews the NIOSH guidelines, USP Chapter <800> requirements/standards related to nursing, describes safe-handling practices, and discusses the technology and procedures available to decrease the risks of handling, preparing, and administering hazardous drugs.

**Nursing Implications:**

- USP Chapter <800> provides standards for safe handling of hazardous drugs to minimize the risk of exposure to healthcare personnel, patients, and the environment.
- Responsibilities of personnel handling hazardous drugs are outlined in the NIOSH guidelines.
- Routes of exposure to hazardous drugs are inhalation, dermal absorption, ingestion, or injection.
- Spills of hazardous drugs must be managed with a hazardous drug spill kit.

**Key Takeaways:**

- NIOSH identifies three groups of hazardous drugs: antineoplastic drugs, non-antineoplastic hazardous drugs, and drugs with reproductive effects
- These standards apply to all healthcare personnel who receive, prepare, administer, transport, or otherwise come in contact with hazardous drugs.
- Ensuring compliance with USP Chapter <800> is the responsibility of regulators such as the FDA, states, and other government authorities.

**Link:** <https://library.amsn.org/amsn/sessions/5298/view>

**References:**

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/index.htm>  
Accessed 6/25/19.

USP General Chapter <800> Hazardous Drugs—Handling in Healthcare Settings.  
<https://www.usp.org/compounding/general-chapter-hazardous-drugs-handling-healthcare>  
Accessed 6/25/19.

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