

## Hazardous Drugs Implementation Update

# TOP 10 FACTS ABOUT THE UPCOMING CHANGES TO HAZARDOUS DRUGS

1. The current terminology of “Cytotoxic” is being replaced by the term “Hazardous Drug.”
2. There are two groups of Hazardous Drugs. The list of Group 1 drugs is similar to the current list of Cytotoxic drugs. Group 2 are drugs that aren’t known or possible carcinogens and have some risk for harm.
3. Signage and alerts will be updated to reflect the new groups, and new terminology.



4. Clients who take Group 1 drugs will have a 48 hour precautionary period following each administration of the drug which requires extra protection when in contact with the patient’s blood and/or body fluids (e.g. personal care, drawing blood). This is similar to the current processes for clients who take cytotoxic medications.
5. The precautions and practices needed in various situations, including transporting, and administering drugs are outlined in a document called the Control Matrix.
6. The final dosage form of a drug is: A unit dose packaged drug ready to be administered to the client without further preparation.
7. When a drug is not supplied in the final dosage form for reasons such as stability and must be prepared in the care area (e.g., it must be cut, crushed, or dissolved) then additional precautions are required. These steps and precautions are outlined in documents called Safe Work Procedures.
8. Before a clinician engages in a Safe Work Procedure, a Risk Assessment must be documented. It isn’t the responsibility of the individual clinician to complete a Risk Assessment – these are done in partnership with Occupational Health and Safety, Pharmacy, Nursing Professional Practice, and Operations Leadership.
9. The packages of Hazardous Drugs will be labeled to alert the clinician:



10. Go-Live for this change will be on February 15, 2022.