

Mitigating risk during hazardous drug handling:

Improving the practice of safe handling of hazardous drugs

**Wednesday, April 20,
1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Room: Pedro de Valdivia AB**

Presenter:

Johan Vandenbroucke, Pharm D
Senior pharmacist production
Central Pharmacy
University Hospital Ghent / Belgium

This session will:

- **Explain** the dangers of hazardous drug exposure
- **Clarify** what is a closed system drug transfer device (CSTD)
- **Identify** what organizations have clearly defined as a CSTD
- **Explore** the differences in CSTDs on the market
- **Review** what to consider when selecting a CSTD for your institution



A growing amount of evidence points to the dangers of hazardous drug exposure for healthcare workers during preparation and administration.

Many institutions struggle to maximize their safety precautions for a variety of reasons, including:

- Limited awareness of the risks of hazardous drug exposure
- Need for more information on engineering controls
- Lack of international guidelines or enforcement of those guidelines

Profound changes in how institutions mitigate hazardous drug exposure are anticipated to rapidly evolve as individuals become better informed.

Short-term health risks

Occupational exposure can lead to headaches, mucosal sores, hair loss, dizziness and nausea / vomiting.¹

Long-term health risks

Prolonged exposure can lead to irreversible adverse effects, such as cancer, organ damage, reproductive problems, developmental impairment and genetic issues.^{2,3}

1. Valanis BG, Vollmer WM, Labuhn KT, Glass AG. Acute symptoms associated with antineoplastic drug handling among nurses. *Cancer Nurs*. 1993;16(4):288-295.
2. McDiarmid MA, Oliver MS, Roth TS, Rogers B, Escalante C. Chromosome 5 and 7 abnormalities in oncology personnel handling anticancer drugs. *J Occup Environ Med*. 2010;52(10):1028-1034.

3. Preventing Occupational Exposures to Antineoplastic and Other Hazardous Drugs in Healthcare Settings. National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. DHHS (NIOSH) Publication No 2004-165; 2004.