



SAFE HANDLING Q&A

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ALTERNATIVE DUTY

BY MIKAELA OLSEN, DNP, APRN-CNS, AOCNS®, FAAN,
& KRISTINE B. LEFEBVRE, MSN, RN, RN-BC, AOCN®

The Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) and Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association (HOPA) shared position statement, “Ensuring Healthcare Worker Safety When Handling Hazardous Drugs” states that “settings in which hazardous drugs (HDs) are present will protect the rights of staff who are trying to conceive, who are pregnant, or who are breast feeding to engage in alternative duty that does not require HD handling” (para. 4).

Providing alternative duty in healthcare settings in which HDs are present for staff who are pregnant, breastfeeding, or trying to conceive is a recommendation supported by ONS, HOPA, and other organizations. Institutional policy should describe the process for requesting an accommodation and

options available to staff members as they pertain to alternative duty.

REFERENCE

Oncology Nursing Society and Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association. (2019). Ensuring healthcare worker safety when handling hazardous drugs: Joint position statement from the Oncology Nursing Society and the Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association ensuring healthcare worker safety when handling hazardous drugs. <https://www.ons.org/make-difference/ons-center-advocacy-and-health-policy/position-statements/ensuring-healthcare>

COPYRIGHT 2020 ONS AND HOPA. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.