



SAFE HANDLING Q&A

STAFF TRAINING

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All healthcare workers who may be exposed to hazardous drugs (HDs), including nurses, physicians, nursing assistants, pharmacists, environmental services workers, and those involved in transportation, receiving, and storage, should participate in education and training specific to their job responsibilities prior to handling HDs. Training should be systematic, based on each worker's role, and included in organizational standards of practice. A knowledge assessment should be performed after didactic content, and observation should be performed for specific skills (e.g., spill clean-up). Checklists exist to document competence and can be developed to be specific to the facility and role (Polovich & Olsen, 2018). All training must be documented, and competency should be reassessed annually.

Topics to include in training are outlined within USP<800> and include the following (U.S. Pharmacopeial Convention, 2016):

- List of HDs used in the institution/practice
- Review of the policies and procedures related to HDs
- Use of personal protective equipment with HDs
- Equipment and devices used with HDs
- Acute management of HD exposure
- Spill management
- Disposal of materials contaminated with HDs

REFERENCES

- Polovich, M. & Olsen, M.M. (Eds). (2018). *Safe handling of hazardous drugs* (3rd ed.). Oncology Nursing Society.
- U.S. Pharmacopeial Convention. (2016). General chapter <800> hazardous drugs—Handling in healthcare settings. <https://www.usp.org/compounding/general-chapter-hazardous-drugs-handling-health-care>

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