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<800> HAZARDOUS DRUGS—HANDLING IN HEALTHCARE SETTINGS

To view the Notice from the Expert Committee that posted in conjunction with this accelerated revision, please click <https://www.uspnf.com/rb/gc-800-20200626>.

1. INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE

This chapter describes practice and quality standards for handling hazardous drugs (HDs) to promote patient safety, worker safety, and environmental protection. Handling HDs includes, but is not limited to, the receipt, storage, compounding, dispensing, administration, and disposal of sterile and nonsterile products and preparations.

This chapter applies to all healthcare personnel who handle HD preparations and all entities that store, prepare, transport, or administer HDs (e.g., pharmacies, hospitals and other healthcare institutions, patient treatment clinics, physicians' practice facilities, or veterinarians' offices). Personnel who **MAY** potentially be exposed to HDs include, but are not limited to: pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, nurses, physicians, physician assistants, home healthcare workers, veterinarians, and veterinary technicians.

Entities that handle HDs **MUST** incorporate the standards in this chapter into their occupational safety plan. The entity's health and safety management system **MUST**, at a minimum, include:

- A list of HDs
- Facility and engineering controls
- Competent personnel
- Safe work practices
- Proper use of appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Policies for HD waste segregation and disposal

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2. LIST OF HAZARDOUS DRUGS

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) maintains a list of antineoplastic and other HDs used in healthcare. ▲For the purposes of this chapter, the term antineoplastic only refers to antineoplastic drugs included in Table 1 of the most current NIOSH List.▲ (RB 1-Jul-2020) An entity **MUST** maintain a list of HDs, which **MUST** include any items on the current NIOSH list that the entity handles. The entity's list **MUST** be reviewed at least every 12 months. Whenever a new agent or dosage form is used, it **SHOULD** be reviewed against the entity's list.

The NIOSH list of antineoplastic and other HDs provides the criteria used to identify HDs. These criteria **MUST** be used to identify HDs that enter the market after the most recent version of the NIOSH list, or that the entity handles as an investigational drug. If the information available on a drug is deemed insufficient to make an informed decision, consider the drug hazardous until more information is available.

Box 1: Containment Requirements

- Drugs on the NIOSH list that **MUST** follow the requirements in this chapter include:
 - Any HD API
 - Any antineoplastic requiring HD manipulation
- Drugs on the NIOSH list that do not have to follow all the containment requirements of this chapter if an assessment of risk is performed and implemented include:
 - Final dosage forms of compounded HD preparations and conventionally manufactured HD products, including antineoplastic dosage forms that do not require any further

manipulation other than counting or repackaging (unless required by the manufacturer)

- For dosage forms of other HDs on the NIOSH list, the entity **MAY** perform an assessment of risk to determine alternative containment strategies and/work practices

Some dosage forms of drugs defined as hazardous **MAY** not pose a significant risk of direct occupational exposure because of their dosage formulation (e.g., tablets or capsules—solid, intact medications that are administered to patients without modifying the formulation). However, dust from tablets and capsules **MAY** present a risk of exposure by skin contact and/or inhalation. An assessment of risk **MAY** be performed for these dosage forms to determine alternative containment strategies and/or work practices. If an assessment of risk is not performed, all HDs **MUST** be handled with all containment strategies defined in this chapter.

The assessment of risk **MUST**, at a minimum, consider the following:

- Type of HD (e.g., antineoplastic, non-antineoplastic, reproductive risk only)
- Dosage form
- Risk of exposure
- Packaging
- Manipulation

If an assessment of risk approach is taken, the entity **MUST** document what alternative containment strategies and/or work practices are being employed for specific dosage forms to minimize occupational exposure. If used, the assessment of risk **MUST** be reviewed at least every 12 months and the review documented.

3. TYPES OF EXPOSURE

Routes of unintentional entry of HDs into the body include dermal and mucosal absorption, inhalation, injection, and ingestion (e.g., contaminated foodstuffs, spills, or mouth contact with contaminated hands). Containers of HDs have been shown to be contaminated upon receipt. Both clinical and nonclinical personnel **MAY** be exposed to HDs when they handle HDs or touch contaminated surfaces. [Table 1](#) lists examples of potential routes of exposure based on activity.

Table 1. Examples of Potential Opportunities of Exposure Based on Activity

Activity	Potential Opportunity of Exposure
Receipt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contacting HD residues present on drug containers, individual dosage units, outer containers, work surfaces, or floors
Dispensing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counting or repackaging tablets and capsules
Compounding and other manipulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crushing or splitting tablets or opening capsules • Pouring oral or topical liquids from one container to another • Weighing or mixing components • Constituting or reconstituting powdered or lyophilized HDs • Withdrawing or diluting injectable HDs from parenteral containers • Expelling air or HDs from syringes • Contacting HD residue present on PPE or other garments • Deactivating, decontaminating, cleaning, and disinfecting areas contaminated with or suspected to be contaminated with HDs • Maintenance activities for potentially contaminated equipment and devices
Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generating aerosols during administration of HDs by various routes (e.g., injection, irrigation, oral, inhalation, or topical application) • Performing certain specialized procedures (e.g., intraoperative intraperitoneal injection or bladder instillation) • Priming an IV administration set
Patient-care activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handling body fluids (e.g., urine, feces, sweat, or vomit) or body-fluid-contaminated clothing, dressings, linens, and other materials
Spills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spill generation, management, and disposal
Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moving HDs within a healthcare setting

Activity	Potential Opportunity of Exposure
Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collection and disposal of hazardous waste and trace contaminated waste

4. RESPONSIBILITIES OF PERSONNEL HANDLING HAZARDOUS DRUGS

Each entity **MUST** have a designated person who is qualified and trained to be responsible for developing and implementing appropriate procedures; overseeing entity compliance with this chapter and other applicable laws, regulations, and standards; ensuring competency of personnel; and ensuring environmental control of the storage and compounding areas. The designated person **MUST** thoroughly understand the rationale for risk-prevention policies, risks to themselves and others, risks of non-compliance that **MAY** compromise safety, and the responsibility to report potentially hazardous situations to the management team. The designated person **MUST** also be responsible for the oversight of monitoring the facility and maintaining reports of testing/sampling performed in facilities, and acting on the results.

All personnel who handle HDs are responsible for understanding the fundamental practices and precautions and for continually evaluating these procedures and the quality of final HDs to prevent harm to patients, minimize exposure to personnel, and minimize contamination of the work and patient-care environment.

5. FACILITIES AND ENGINEERING CONTROLS

HDs **MUST** be handled under conditions that promote patient safety, worker safety, and environmental protection. Signs designating the hazard **MUST** be prominently displayed before the entrance to the HD handling areas. Access to areas where HDs are handled **MUST** be restricted to authorized personnel to protect persons not involved in HD handling. HD handling areas **MUST** be located away from breakrooms and refreshment areas for personnel, patients, or visitors to reduce risk of exposure.

Designated areas **MUST** be available for:

- Receipt and unpacking
- Storage of HDs
- Nonsterile HD compounding (if performed by the entity)
- Sterile HD compounding (if performed by the entity)

Certain areas are required to have negative pressure from surrounding areas to contain HDs and minimize risk of exposure. Consideration **SHOULD** be given to uninterrupted power sources (UPS) for the ventilation systems to maintain negative pressure in the event of power loss.

5.1 Receipt

Antineoplastic HDs and all HD APIs **MUST** be unpacked (i.e., removal from external shipping containers) in an area that is neutral/normal or negative pressure relative to the surrounding areas. HDs **MUST** not be unpacked from their external shipping containers in sterile compounding areas or in positive pressure areas.

5.2 Storage

HDs **MUST** be stored in a manner that prevents spillage or breakage if the container falls. Do not store HDs on the floor. In areas prone to specific types of natural disasters (e.g., earthquakes) the manner of storage **MUST** meet applicable safety precautions, such as secure shelves with raised front lips.

Antineoplastic HDs requiring manipulation other than counting or repackaging of final dosage forms and any HD API **MUST** be stored separately from non-HDs in a manner that prevents contamination and personnel exposure. These HDs **MUST** be stored in an externally ventilated, negative-pressure room with at least 12 air changes per hour (ACPH). Non-antineoplastic, reproductive risk only, and final dosage forms of antineoplastic HDs **MAY** be stored with other inventory if permitted by entity policy.

Sterile and nonsterile HDs **MAY** be stored together, but HDs used for nonsterile compounding **SHOULD** not be stored in areas designated for sterile compounding to minimize traffic into the sterile compounding area.

Refrigerated antineoplastic HDs **MUST** be stored in a dedicated refrigerator in a negative pressure area with at least 12 ACPH [e.g., storage room, buffer room, or containment segregated compounding area (C-SCA)]. If a refrigerator is placed in a negative pressure buffer room, an exhaust located adjacent to the refrigerator's compressor and behind the refrigerator **SHOULD** be considered.

5.3 Compounding

Engineering controls are required to protect the preparation from cross-contamination and microbial contamination (if preparation is intended to be sterile) during all phases of the compounding process. Engineering controls for containment are divided into three categories representing primary, secondary, and supplementary levels of control. A containment primary engineering control (C-PEC) is a ventilated device designed to minimize worker and environmental HD exposure when directly handling HDs. The containment secondary engineering control (C-SEC) is the room in which the C-PEC is placed. Supplemental engineering controls [e.g., closed-system drug-transfer device (CSTD)] are adjunct controls to offer additional levels of protection. [Appendix 2](#) provides examples for designs of HD compounding areas.

Sterile and nonsterile HDs **MUST** be compounded within a C-PEC located in a C-SEC. The C-SEC used for sterile and nonsterile compounding **MUST**:

- Be externally vented
- Be physically separated (i.e., a different room from other preparation areas)
- Have an appropriate air exchange (e.g., ACPH)

- Have a negative pressure between 0.01 and 0.03 inches of water column relative to all adjacent areas

The C-PEC **MUST** operate continuously if it supplies some or all of the negative pressure in the C-SEC or if it is used for sterile compounding. If there is any loss of power to the C-PEC, or if repair or moving occurs, all activities occurring in the C-PEC **MUST** be suspended immediately. If necessary, protect the unit by covering it appropriately per the manufacturer's recommendations. Once the C-PEC can be powered on, decontaminate, clean, and disinfect (if used for sterile compounding) all surfaces and wait the manufacturer-specified recovery time before resuming compounding.

A sink **MUST** be available for hand washing. An eyewash station and/or other emergency or safety precautions that meet applicable laws and regulations **MUST** be readily available. Care **MUST** be taken to locate water sources and drains in areas where their presence will not interfere with required ISO classifications. Water sources and drains **MUST** be located at least 1 meter away from the C-PEC.

For entities that compound both nonsterile and sterile HDs, the respective C-PECs **MUST** be placed in separate rooms, unless those C-PECs used for nonsterile compounding are sufficiently effective that the room can continuously maintain ISO 7 classification throughout the nonsterile compounding activity. If the C-PECs used for sterile and nonsterile compounding are placed in the same room, they **MUST** be placed at least 1 meter apart and particle-generating activity **MUST** not be performed when sterile compounding is in process.

5.3.1 NONSTERILE COMPOUNDING

In addition to this chapter, nonsterile compounding **MUST** follow standards in [Pharmaceutical Compounding—Nonsterile Preparations \(795\)](#). A C-PEC is not required if manipulations are limited to handling of final dosage forms (e.g., counting or repackaging of tablets and capsules) that do not produce particles, aerosols, or gasses.

The C-PECs used for manipulation of nonsterile HDs **MUST** be either externally vented (preferred) or have redundant-HEPA filters in series. Nonsterile HD compounding **MUST** be performed in a C-PEC that provides personnel and environmental protection, such as a Class I Biological Safety Cabinet (BSC) or Containment Ventilated Enclosure (CVE). A Class II BSC or a compounding aseptic containment isolator (CACI) **MAY** also be used. For occasional nonsterile HD compounding, a C-PEC used for sterile compounding (e.g., Class II BSC or CACI) **MAY** be used but **MUST** be decontaminated, cleaned, and disinfected before resuming sterile compounding in that C-PEC. A C-PEC used only for nonsterile compounding does not require unidirectional airflow because the critical environment does not need to be ISO classified.

The C-PEC **MUST** be placed in a C-SEC that has at least 12 ACPH. [Table 2](#) summarizes the engineering controls required for nonsterile HD compounding.

Due to the difficulty of cleaning HD contamination, surfaces of ceilings, walls, floors, fixtures, shelving, counters, and cabinets in the nonsterile compounding area **MUST** be smooth, impervious, free from cracks and crevices, and non-shedding.

Table 2. Engineering Controls for Nonsterile HD Compounding

C-PEC	C-SEC Requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Externally vented (preferred) or redundant-HEPA filtered in series Examples: CVE, Class I or II BSC, CACI 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Externally vented 12 ACPH Negative pressure between 0.01 and 0.03 inches of water column relative to adjacent areas

5.3.2 STERILE COMPOUNDING

In addition to this chapter, sterile compounding **MUST** follow standards in [\(797\)](#).

All C-PECs used for manipulation of sterile HDs **MUST** be externally vented. Sterile HD compounding **MUST** be performed in a C-PEC that provides an ISO Class 5 or better air quality, such as a Class II or III BSC or CACI. Class II BSC types A2, B1, or B2 are acceptable. For most known HDs, type A2 cabinets offer a simple and reliable integration with the ventilation and pressurization requirements of the C-SEC. Class II type B2 BSCs are typically reserved for use with volatile components. [Appendix 3](#) describes the different types of BSCs.

A laminar airflow workbench (LAFW) or compounding aseptic isolator (CAI) **MUST** not be used for the compounding of an antineoplastic HD. A BSC or CACI used for the preparation of HDs **MUST** not be used for the preparation of a non-HD unless the non-HD preparation is placed into a protective outer wrapper during removal from the C-PEC and is labeled to require PPE handling precautions.

The C-PEC **MUST** be located in a C-SEC, which **MAY** either be an ISO Class 7 buffer room with an ISO Class 7 ante-room (preferred) or an unclassified containment segregated compounding area (C-SCA). If the C-PEC is placed in a C-SCA, the beyond-use date (BUD) of all compounded sterile preparations (CSPs) prepared **MUST** be limited as described in [\(797\)](#) for CSPs prepared in a segregated compounding area. [Table 3](#) summarizes the engineering controls required for sterile HD compounding.

Table 3. Engineering Controls for Sterile HD Compounding

Configuration	C-PEC	C-SEC	Maximum BUD
ISO Class 7 buffer room with an ISO Class 7 ante-room	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Externally vented 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Externally vented 30 ACPH 	As described in (797)

Configuration	C-PEC	C-SEC	Maximum BUD
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examples: Class II BSC or CACI 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negative pressure between 0.01 and 0.03 inches of water column relative to adjacent areas 	
Unclassified C-SCA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Externally vented Examples: Class II BSC or CACI 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Externally vented 12 ACPH Negative pressure between 0.01 and 0.03 inches of water column relative to adjacent areas 	As described in (797) for CSPs prepared in a segregated compounding area

ISO Class 7 buffer room with an ISO class 7 ante-room:

The C-PEC is placed in an ISO Class 7 buffer room that has fixed walls, HEPA-filtered supply air, a negative pressure between 0.01 and 0.03 inches of water column relative to all adjacent areas and a minimum of 30 ACPH.

The buffer room **MUST** be externally vented. Because the room through which entry into the HD buffer room (e.g., ante-room or non-HD buffer room) plays an important role in terms of total contamination control, the following is required:

- Minimum of 30 ACPH of HEPA-filtered supply air
- Maintain a positive pressure of at least 0.02 inches of water column relative to all adjacent unclassified areas
- Maintain an air quality of ISO Class 7 or better

An ISO Class 7 ante-room with fixed walls is necessary to provide inward air migration of equal cleanliness classified air into the negative pressure buffer room to contain any airborne HD. A hand-washing sink **MUST** be placed in the ante-room at least 1 meter from the entrance to the HD buffer room to avoid contamination migration into the negative pressure HD buffer room.

Although not a recommended facility design, if the negative-pressure HD buffer room is entered through the positive-pressure non-HD buffer room, the following is also required:

- A line of demarcation **MUST** be defined within the negative-pressure buffer room for donning and doffing PPE
- A method to transport HDs, HD CSPs, and HD waste into and out of the negative pressure buffer room to minimize the spread of HD contamination. This **MAY** be accomplished by use of a pass-through chamber between the negative-pressure buffer area and adjacent space. The pass-through chamber **MUST** be included in the facility's certification to ensure that particles are not compromising the air quality of the negative-pressure buffer room. A refrigerator pass-through **MUST** not be used. Other methods of containment (such as sealed containers) **MAY** be used.

HD CSPs prepared in an ISO Class 7 buffer room with an ISO Class 7 ante-room **MAY** use the BUDs described in [\(797\)](#), based on the categories of CSP, sterility testing, and storage temperature.

Containment segregated compounding area (C-SCA):

The C-PEC is placed in an unclassified C-SCA that has fixed walls, a negative pressure between 0.01 and 0.03 inches of water column relative to all adjacent areas, and a minimum of 12 ACPH. The C-SCA **MUST** be externally vented. A hand-washing sink **MUST** be placed at least 1 meter from C-PEC and **MAY** be either inside the C-SCA or directly outside the C-SCA.

Only low- and medium-risk HD CSPs **MAY** be prepared in a C-SCA. HD CSPs prepared in the C-SCA **MUST** not exceed the BUDs described in [\(797\)](#) for CSPs prepared in a segregated compounding area.

5.4 Containment Supplemental Engineering Controls

Containment supplemental engineering controls, such as CSTDs, provide adjunct controls to offer an additional level of protection during compounding or administration. Some CSTDs have been shown to limit the potential of generating aerosols during compounding. However, there is no certainty that all CSTDs will perform adequately. Until a published universal performance standard for evaluation of CSTD containment is available, users **SHOULD** carefully evaluate the performance claims associated with available CSTDs based on independent, peer-reviewed studies and demonstrated contamination reduction.

A CSTD **MUST** not be used as a substitute for a C-PEC when compounding. CSTDs **SHOULD** be used when compounding HDs when the dosage form allows. CSTDs **MUST** be used when administering antineoplastic HDs when the dosage form allows. CSTDs known to be physically or chemically incompatible with a specific HD **MUST** not be used for that HD.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND CONTROL

Environmental wipe sampling for HD surface residue **SHOULD** be performed routinely (e.g., initially as a benchmark and at least every 6 months, or more often as needed, to verify containment). Surface wipe sampling **SHOULD** include:

- Interior of the C-PEC and equipment contained in it
- Pass-through chambers
- Surfaces in staging or work areas near the C-PEC
- Areas adjacent to C-PECs (e.g., floors directly under C-PEC, staging, and dispensing area)
- Areas immediately outside the HD buffer room or the C-SCA
- Patient administration areas

There are currently no studies demonstrating the effectiveness of a specific number or size of wipe samples in determining levels of HD contamination. Wipe sampling kits **SHOULD** be verified before use to ensure the method and reagent used have been tested to recover a specific percentage of known marker drugs from various surface types found in the sampled area. There are currently no certifying agencies for vendors of wipe sample kits.

There is currently no standard for acceptable limits for HD surface contamination. Common marker HDs that can be assayed include cyclophosphamide, ifosfamide, methotrexate, fluorouracil, and platinum-containing drugs. An example of measurable contamination would be cyclophosphamide levels $>1.00 \text{ ng/cm}^2$, which were shown in some studies to result in uptake of the drug in exposed workers. If any measurable contamination is found, the designated person **MUST** identify, document, and contain the cause of contamination. Such action **MAY** include reevaluating work practices, re-training personnel, performing thorough deactivation, decontamination, cleaning, and improving engineering controls. Repeat the wipe sampling to validate that the deactivation/decontamination and cleaning steps have been effective.

7. PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) provides worker protection to reduce exposure to HD aerosols and residues. Additional PPE **MAY** be required to handle the HDs outside of a C-PEC, such as treating a patient or cleaning a spill. The NIOSH list of antineoplastic and other HDs provides general guidance on PPE for possible scenarios that **MAY** be encountered in healthcare settings. Disposable PPE **MUST** not be re-used. Reusable PPE **MUST** be decontaminated and cleaned after use.

Gowns, head, hair, shoe covers, and two pairs of chemotherapy gloves are required for compounding sterile and nonsterile HDs. Two pairs of chemotherapy gloves are required for administering injectable antineoplastic HDs. Gowns shown to resist permeability by HDs are required when administering injectable antineoplastic HDs. For all other activities, the entity's **SOP MUST** describe the appropriate PPE to be worn based on its

occupational safety plan and assessment of risk (if used). The entity **MUST** develop **SOPs** for PPE based on the risk of exposure (see *Types of Exposure*) and activities performed. Appropriate PPE **MUST** be worn when handling HDs including during:

- Receipt
- Storage
- Transport
- Compounding (sterile and nonsterile)
- Administration
- Deactivation/decontamination, cleaning, and disinfecting
- Spill control
- Waste disposal

7.1 Gloves

When chemotherapy gloves are required, they **MUST** meet American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) standard D6978 (or its successor). Chemotherapy gloves **SHOULD** be worn for handling all HDs including non-antineoplastics and for reproductive risk only HDs. Chemotherapy gloves **MUST** be powder-free because powder can contaminate the work area and can adsorb and retain HDs. Gloves **MUST** be inspected for physical defects before use. Do not use gloves with pin holes or weak spots.

When used for sterile compounding, the outer chemotherapy gloves **MUST** be sterile. Chemotherapy gloves **SHOULD** be changed every 30 minutes unless otherwise recommended by the manufacturer's documentation and **MUST** be changed when torn, punctured, or contaminated. Hands **MUST** be washed with soap and water after removing gloves.

7.2 Gowns

When gowns are required, they **MUST** be disposable and shown to resist permeability by HDs. Gowns **MUST** be selected based on the HDs handled. Disposable gowns made of polyethylene-coated polypropylene or other laminate materials offer better protection than those made of uncoated materials. Gowns **MUST** close in the back (i.e., no open front), be long sleeved, and have closed cuffs that are elastic or knit. Gowns **MUST** not have seams or closures that could allow HDs to pass through.

Cloth laboratory coats, surgical scrubs, isolation gowns, or other absorbent materials are not appropriate protective outerwear when handling HDs because they permit the permeation of HDs and can hold spilled drugs against the skin, thereby increasing exposure. Clothing **MAY** also retain HD residue from contact, and **MAY** transfer to other healthcare workers or various surfaces. Washing of non-disposable clothing contaminated with HD residue **SHOULD** only be done according to facility policy as drug residue **MAY** be transferred to other clothing. Potentially contaminated clothing **MUST** not be taken home under any circumstances.

Gowns **MUST** be changed per the manufacturer's information for permeation of the gown. If no permeation information is available for the gowns used, change them every 2–3 hours or immediately after a spill or splash. Gowns worn in HD handling areas **MUST** not be worn to other areas in order to avoid spreading HD contamination and exposing other healthcare workers.

7.3 Head, Hair, Shoe, and Sleeve Covers

Head and hair covers (including beard and moustache, if applicable), shoe covers, and sleeve covers provide protection from contact with HD residue. When compounding HDs, a second pair of shoe covers **MUST** be donned before entering the C-SEC and doffed when exiting the C-SEC. Shoe covers worn in HD handling areas **MUST** not be worn to other areas to avoid spreading HD contamination and exposing other healthcare workers.

Disposable sleeve covers **MAY** be used to protect areas of the arm that **MAY** come in contact with HDs. Disposable sleeve covers made of polyethylene-coated polypropylene or other laminate materials offer better protection than those made of uncoated materials.

7.4 Eye and Face Protection

Many HDs are irritating to the eyes and mucous membranes. Appropriate eye and face protection **MUST** be worn when there is a risk for spills or splashes of HDs or HD waste materials when working outside of a C-PEC (e.g., administration in the surgical suite, working at or above eye level, or cleaning a spill). A full-facepiece respirator provides eye and face protection. Goggles **MUST** be used when eye protection is needed. Eye glasses alone or safety glasses with side shields do not protect the eyes adequately from splashes. Face shields in combination with goggles provide a full range of protection against splashes to the face and eyes. Face shields alone do not provide full eye and face protection.

7.5 Respiratory Protection

Personnel who are unpacking HDs that are not contained in plastic **SHOULD** wear an elastomeric half-mask with a multi-gas cartridge and P100-filter until assessment of the packaging integrity can be made to ensure no breakage or spillage occurred during transport. If the type of drug can be better defined, a more targeted cartridge can be used.

Surgical masks do not provide respiratory protection from drug exposure and **MUST** not be used when respiratory protection from HD exposure is required. A surgical N95 respirator provides the respiratory protection of an N95 respirator, and like a surgical mask, provides a barrier to splashes, droplets, and sprays around the nose and mouth.

For most activities requiring respiratory protection, a fit-tested NIOSH-certified N95 or more protective respirator is sufficient to protect against airborne particles. However, N95 respirators offer no protection against gases and vapors and little protection against direct liquid splashes (see the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) Respirator Trusted-Source Information).

Fit test the respirator and train workers to use respiratory protection. Follow all requirements in the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) respiratory protection standard (29 CFR 1910.134). An appropriate full-facepiece, chemical cartridge-type respirator or powered air-purifying respirator (PAPR) **SHOULD** be worn when there is a risk of respiratory exposure to HDs, including when:

- Attending to HD spills larger than what can be contained with a spill kit
- Deactivating, decontaminating, and cleaning underneath the work surface of a C-PEC
- There is a known or suspected airborne exposure to powders or vapors

7.6 Disposal of Used Personal Protective Equipment

Consider all PPE worn when handling HDs to be contaminated with, at minimum, trace quantities of HDs. PPE **MUST** be placed in an appropriate waste container and further disposed of per local, state, and federal regulations. PPE worn during compounding **SHOULD** be disposed of in the proper waste container before leaving the C-SEC. Chemotherapy gloves and sleeve covers (if used) worn during compounding **MUST** be carefully removed and discarded immediately into a waste container approved for trace contaminated waste inside the C-PEC or contained in a sealable bag for discarding outside the C-PEC.

8. HAZARD COMMUNICATION PROGRAM

Entities are required to establish policies and procedures that ensure worker safety during all aspects of HD handling. The entity **MUST** develop **SOPs** to ensure effective training regarding proper labeling, transport, storage, and disposal of the HDs and use of Safety Data Sheets (SDS), based on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS).

Elements of the hazard communication program plan **MUST** include:

- A written plan that describes how the standard will be implemented
- All containers of hazardous chemicals **MUST** be labeled, tagged, or marked with the identity of the material and appropriate hazard warnings
- Entities **MUST** have an SDS for each hazardous chemical they use (29 CFR 1910.1200)
- Entities **MUST** ensure that the SDSs for each hazardous chemical used are readily accessible to personnel during each work shift and when they are in their work areas
- Personnel who **MAY** be exposed to hazardous chemicals when working **MUST** be provided information and training before the initial assignment to work with a hazardous chemical, and also whenever the hazard changes
- Personnel of reproductive capability **MUST** confirm in writing that they understand the risks of handling HDs

9. PERSONNEL TRAINING

All personnel who handle HDs **MUST** be trained based on their job functions (e.g., in the receipt, storage, compounding, repackaging, dispensing, administering, and disposing of HDs). Training **MUST** occur before the employee independently handles HDs. The effectiveness of training for HD handling competencies **MUST** be demonstrated by each employee. Personnel competency **MUST** be reassessed at least every 12 months. Personnel **MUST** be trained prior to the introduction of a new HD or new equipment and prior to a new or significant change in process or **SOP**. All training and competency assessment **MUST** be documented.

The training **MUST** include at least the following:

- Overview of entity's list of HDs and their risks
- Review of the entity's **SOPs** related to handling of HDs
- Proper use of PPE
- Proper use of equipment and devices (e.g., engineering controls)
- Response to known or suspected HD exposure
- Spill management
- Proper disposal of HDs and trace-contaminated materials

10. RECEIVING

The entity **MUST** establish **SOPs** for receiving HDs. HDs **SHOULD** be received from the supplier in impervious plastic to segregate them from other drugs and to allow for safety in the receiving and internal transfer process. HDs **MUST** be delivered to the HD storage area immediately after unpacking.

PPE, including chemotherapy gloves, **MUST** be worn when unpacking HDs (see *Personal Protective Equipment*). A spill kit **MUST** be accessible in the receiving area.

The entity **MUST** enforce policies that include a tiered approach, starting with visual examination of the shipping container for signs of damage or breakage (e.g., visible stains from leakage, sounds of broken glass). [Table 4](#) summarizes the steps for receiving and handling of damaged shipping containers.

Table 4. Summary of Requirements for Receiving and Handling Damaged HD Shipping Containers

If the shipping container appears damaged	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Seal container without opening and contact the supplier• If the unopened package is to be returned to the supplier, enclose the package in an impervious container and label the outer container "Hazardous"• If the supplier declines return, dispose of as hazardous waste
If a damaged shipping	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Seal the container in plastic or an impervious container

container MUST be opened	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport it to a C-PEC and place on a plastic-backed preparation mat • Open the package and remove undamaged items • Wipe the outside of the undamaged items with a disposable wipe • Enclose the damaged item(s) in an impervious container and label the outer container "Hazardous" • If the supplier declines return, dispose of as hazardous waste • Deactivate, decontaminate, and clean the C-PEC (see <i>Deactivating, Decontaminating, Cleaning, and Disinfecting</i>) and discard the mat and cleaning disposables as hazardous waste
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When opening damaged shipping containers, they **SHOULD** preferably be transported to a C-PEC designated for nonsterile compounding. If a C-PEC designated for sterile compounding is the only one available, it **MUST** be disinfected after the decontamination, deactivation, and cleaning step before returning to any sterile compounding activity.

Damaged packages or shipping cartons **MUST** be considered spills that **MUST** be reported to the designated person and managed according to the entity's **SOPs**. Segregate HDs waiting to be returned to the supplier in a designated negative pressure area. Clean-up **MUST** comply with established **SOPs**.

11. LABELING, PACKAGING, TRANSPORT AND DISPOSAL

The entity **MUST** establish **SOPs** for the labeling, packaging, transport, and disposal of HDs. The **SOPs MUST** address prevention of accidental exposures or spills, personnel training on response to exposure, and use of a spill kit. Examples of special exposure-reducing strategies include small-bore connectors (such as Luer Lock) and syringes, syringe caps, CSTDs, the capping of container ports, sealed impervious plastic bags, impact-resistant and/or water-tight containers, and cautionary labeling.

11.1 Labeling

HDs identified by the entity as requiring special HD handling precautions **MUST** be clearly labeled at all times during their transport. Personnel **MUST** ensure that the labeling processes for compounded preparations do not introduce contamination into the non-HD handling areas.

11.2 Packaging

Personnel **MUST** select and use packaging containers and materials that will maintain physical integrity, stability, and sterility (if needed) of the HDs during transport. Packaging materials **MUST** protect the HD from damage, leakage, contamination, and degradation,

while protecting healthcare workers who transport HDs. The entity **MUST** have written **SOPs** to describe appropriate shipping containers and insulating materials, based on information from product specifications, vendors, and mode of transport.

11.3 Transport

HDs that need to be transported **MUST** be labeled, stored, and handled in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local regulations. HDs **MUST** be transported in containers that minimize the risk of breakage or leakage. Pneumatic tubes **MUST** not be used to transport any liquid HDs or any antineoplastic HDs because of the potential for breakage and contamination.

When shipping HDs to locations outside the entity, the entity **MUST** consult the Transport Information on the SDS. The entity **MUST** ensure that labels and accessory labeling for the HDs include storage instructions, disposal instructions, and HD category information in a format that is consistent with the carrier's policies.

11.4 Disposal

All personnel who perform routine custodial waste removal and cleaning activities in HD handling areas **MUST** be trained in appropriate procedures to protect themselves and the environment to prevent HD contamination. Disposal of all HD waste, including, but not limited to, unused HDs and trace-contaminated PPE and other materials, **MUST** comply with all applicable federal, state, and local regulations.

12. DISPENSING FINAL DOSAGE FORMS

HDs that do not require any further manipulation, other than counting or repackaging of final dosage forms, **MAY** be prepared for dispensing without any further requirements for containment unless required by the manufacturer or if visual indicators of HD exposure hazards are present (e.g., HD dust or leakage).

Counting or repackaging of HDs **MUST** be done carefully. Clean equipment **SHOULD** be dedicated for use with HDs and **SHOULD** be decontaminated after every use. Tablet and capsule forms of antineoplastic HDs **MUST** not be placed in automated counting or packaging machines, which subject them to stress and **MAY** create powdered contaminants.

13. COMPOUNDING

Entities and personnel involved in compounding HDs **MUST** be compliant with the appropriate USP standards for compounding including [\(795\)](#) and [\(797\)](#). Compounding **MUST** be done in proper engineering controls as described in *Compounding*. When compounding HD preparations in a C-PEC, a plastic-backed preparation mat **SHOULD** be placed on the work surface of the C-PEC. The mat **SHOULD** be changed immediately if a spill occurs and regularly during use, and **SHOULD** be discarded at the end of the daily compounding activity. Disposable or clean equipment for compounding (such as mortars and pestles, and spatulas) **MUST** be dedicated for use with HDs.

Bulk containers of liquid and API HD **MUST** be handled carefully to avoid spills. If used, APIs or other powdered HDs **MUST** be handled in a C-PEC to protect against occupational exposure, especially during particle-generating activities (such as crushing tablets, opening capsules, and weighing powder).

14. ADMINISTERING

HDs **MUST** be administered safely using protective medical devices and techniques. Examples of protective medical devices include needleless and closed systems. Examples of protective techniques include spiking or priming of IV tubing with a non-HD solution in a C-PEC and crushing tablets in a plastic pouch.

Appropriate PPE **MUST** be worn when administering HDs. After use, PPE **MUST** be removed and disposed of in a waste container approved for trace-contaminated HD waste at the site of drug administration. Equipment (such as tubing and needles) and packaging materials **MUST** be disposed of properly, such as in HD waste containers, after administration.

CSTDs **MUST** be used for administration of antineoplastic HDs when the dosage form allows. Techniques and ancillary devices that minimize the risk posed by open systems **MUST** be used when administering HDs through certain routes. Administration into certain organs or body cavities (e.g., the bladder, eye, peritoneal cavity, or chest cavity) often requires equipment for which locking connections **MAY** not be readily available or possible.

Healthcare personnel **SHOULD** avoid manipulating HDs such as crushing tablets or opening capsules if possible. Liquid formulations are preferred if solid oral dosage forms are not appropriate for the patient. If HD dosage forms do require manipulation such as crushing tablet(s) or opening capsule(s) for a single dose, personnel **MUST** don appropriate PPE and use a plastic pouch to contain any dust or particles generated.

15. DEACTIVATING, DECONTAMINATING, CLEANING, AND DISINFECTING

All areas where HDs are handled and all reusable equipment and devices **MUST** be deactivated, decontaminated, and cleaned. Additionally, sterile compounding areas and devices **MUST** be subsequently disinfected.

The entity **MUST** establish written procedures for decontamination, deactivation, and cleaning, and for sterile compounding areas disinfection. Additionally, cleaning of nonsterile compounding areas **MUST** comply with [\(795\)](#) and cleaning of sterile compounding areas **MUST** comply with [\(797\)](#). Written procedures for cleaning **MUST** include procedures, agents used, dilutions (if used), frequency, and documentation requirements.

All personnel who perform deactivation, decontamination, cleaning, and disinfection activities in HD handling areas **MUST** be trained in appropriate procedures to protect themselves and the environment from contamination. All personnel performing these

activities **MUST** wear appropriate PPE resistant to the cleaning agents used, including two pairs of chemotherapy gloves and impermeable disposable gowns (see *Personal Protective Equipment*). Additionally, eye protection and face shields **MUST** be used if splashing is likely. If warranted by the activity, respiratory protection **MUST** be used.

The deactivating, decontaminating, cleaning, and disinfecting agents selected **MUST** be appropriate for the type of HD contaminant(s), location, and surface materials. The products used **MUST** be compatible with the surface material. Consult manufacturer or supplier information for compatibility with cleaning agents used. Agents used for deactivation, decontamination, and cleaning **SHOULD** be applied through the use of wipes wetted with appropriate solution and not delivered by a spray bottle to avoid spreading HD residue. All disposable materials **MUST** be discarded to meet EPA regulations and the entity's policies. Perform cleaning in areas that are sufficiently ventilated. [Table 5](#) summarizes the purpose and example agents for each step.

Table 5. Cleaning Steps

Cleaning Step	Purpose	Example Agents
Deactivation	Render compound inert or inactive	As listed in the HD labeling or other agents which MAY incorporate Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered oxidizers (e.g., peroxide formulations, sodium hypochlorite, etc.)
Decontamination	Remove HD residue	Materials that have been validated to be effective for HD decontamination, or through other materials proven to be effective through testing, which MAY include alcohol, water, peroxide, or sodium hypochlorite
Cleaning	Remove organic and inorganic material	Germicidal detergent
Disinfection (for sterile manipulations)	Destroy microorganisms	EPA-registered disinfectant and/or sterile alcohol as appropriate for use

15.1 Deactivation

Deactivation renders a compound inert or inactive. Residue from deactivation **MUST** be removed by decontaminating the surface.

There is no one proven method for deactivating all compounds. The ultimate goal **SHOULD** be complete surface decontamination. Products that have known deactivation properties (EPA-registered oxidizing agents that are appropriate for the intended use) **SHOULD** be used when possible. Care **SHOULD** be taken when selecting materials for

deactivation due to potential adverse effects (hazardous byproducts, respiratory effects, and caustic damage to surfaces). Damage to surfaces is exhibited by corrosion to stainless steel surfaces caused by sodium hypochlorite if left untreated. To prevent corrosion, sodium hypochlorite **MUST** be neutralized with sodium thiosulfate or by following with an agent to remove the sodium hypochlorite (e.g., sterile alcohol, sterile water, germicidal detergent, or sporicidal agent).

15.2 Decontamination

Decontamination occurs by inactivating, neutralizing, or physically removing HD residue from non-disposable surfaces and transferring it to absorbent, disposable materials (e.g., wipes, pads, or towels) appropriate to the area being cleaned. When choosing among various products available for decontaminating HDs, consideration **SHOULD** be given to surface compatibility and facility requirements. It is imperative to adhere to manufacturer's use instructions. Because of the growing number of assays available for HDs, additional surface wipe sampling is now possible and **SHOULD** be done to document the effectiveness of any agent used for decontamination of HD residue from work surfaces (see *Environmental Quality and Control*).

The amount of HD contamination introduced into the C-PEC **MAY** be reduced by wiping down HD containers. The solution used for wiping HD packaging **MUST** not alter the product label. The work surface of the C-PEC **MUST** be decontaminated between compounding of different HDs. The C-PEC **MUST** be decontaminated at least daily (when used), any time a spill occurs, before and after certification, any time voluntary interruption occurs, and if the ventilation tool is moved.

C-PECs **MAY** have areas under the work tray where contamination can build up. These areas **MUST** be deactivated, decontaminated, and cleaned at least monthly to reduce the contamination level in the C-PEC. Accessing this area **MAY** be difficult. Deactivate, decontaminate, and clean as much as possible of the C-PEC surfaces before accessing the area under the work tray. When deactivating, decontaminating, and cleaning the area under the work tray of a C-PEC, the containment airflows are compromised by opening the cabinets. To provide protection to the worker performing this task, respiratory protection **MAY** be required.

15.3 Cleaning

Cleaning is a process that results in the removal of contaminants (e.g., soil, microbial contamination, HD residue) from objects and surfaces using water, detergents, surfactants, solvents, and/or other chemicals. Cleaning agents used on compounding equipment **SHOULD** not introduce microbial contamination. No cleaning step **MAY** be performed when compounding activities are occurring.

15.4 Disinfection

Disinfection is a process of inhibiting or destroying microorganisms. Before disinfection can be adequately performed, surfaces **MUST** be cleaned. Disinfection **MUST** be done for areas intended to be sterile, including the sterile compounding areas.

16. SPILL CONTROL

All personnel who **MAY** be required to clean up a spill of HDs **MUST** receive proper training in spill management and the use of PPE and NIOSH-certified respirators (see *Personal Protective Equipment*). Spills **MUST** be contained and cleaned immediately only by qualified personnel with appropriate PPE. Qualified personnel **MUST** be available at all times while HDs are being handled. Signs **MUST** be available for restricting access to the spill area. Spill kits containing all of the materials needed to clean HD spills **MUST** be readily available in all areas where HDs are routinely handled. If HDs are being prepared or administered in a non-routine healthcare area, a spill kit and respirator **MUST** be available. All spill materials **MUST** be disposed of as hazardous waste.

The circumstances and management of spills **MUST** be documented. Personnel who are potentially exposed during the spill or spill clean up or who have direct skin or eye contact with HDs require immediate evaluation. Non-employees exposed to an HD spill **SHOULD** follow entity policy, which **MAY** include reporting to the designated emergency service for initial evaluation and completion of an incident report or exposure form.

SOPs MUST be developed to prevent spills and to direct the clean up of HD spills. **SOPs MUST** address the size and scope of the spill and specify who is responsible for spill management and the type of PPE required. The management of the spill (e.g., decontamination, deactivation, and cleaning) **MAY** be dependent on the size and type of spill. The **SOP MUST** address the location of spill kits and clean-up materials as well as the capacity of the spill kit. Written procedures **SHOULD** address use of appropriate full-facepiece, chemical cartridge-type respirators if the capacity of the spill kit is exceeded or if there is known or suspected airborne exposure to vapors or gases.

17. DOCUMENTATION AND STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

The entity **MUST** maintain **SOPs** for the safe handling of HDs for all situations in which these HDs are used throughout a facility. The **SOPs MUST** be reviewed at least every 12 months by the designated person, and the review **MUST** be documented. Revisions in forms or records **MUST** be made as needed and communicated to all personnel handling HDs.

The **SOPs** for handling of HDs **SHOULD** include:

- Hazard communication program
- Occupational safety program
- Designation of HD areas
- Receipt
- Storage

- Compounding
- Use and maintenance of proper engineering controls (e.g., C-PECs, C-SECs, and CSTDs)
- Hand hygiene and use of PPE based on activity (e.g., receipt, transport, compounding, administration, spill, and disposal)
- Deactivation, decontamination, cleaning, and disinfection
- Dispensing
- Transport
- Administering
- Environmental monitoring (e.g., wipe sampling)
- Disposal
- Spill control
- Medical surveillance

Personnel who transport, compound, or administer HDs **MUST** document their training according to OSHA standards (see OSHA Standard 1910.120 Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response) and other applicable laws and regulations.

18. MEDICAL SURVEILLANCE

Medical surveillance is part of a comprehensive exposure control program complementing engineering controls, safe work processes, and use of PPE. Healthcare workers who handle HDs as a regular part of their job assignment **SHOULD** be enrolled in a medical surveillance program. The general purpose of surveillance is to minimize adverse health effects in personnel potentially exposed to HDs. Medical surveillance programs involve assessment and documentation of symptom complaints, physical findings, and laboratory values (such as a blood count) to determine whether there is a deviation from the expected norms.

Medical surveillance can also be viewed as a secondary prevention tool that **MAY** provide a means of early detection if a health problem develops. Tracking personnel through medical surveillance allows the comparison of health variables over time in individual workers, which **MAY** facilitate early detection of a change in a laboratory value or health condition. Medical surveillance programs also look for trends in populations of workers. Examining grouped data compared with data from unexposed workers **MAY** reveal a small alteration or increase in the frequency of a health effect that would be obscured if individual workers' results alone were considered.

Medical surveillance evaluates the protection afforded by engineering controls, other administrative controls, safe work processes, PPE, and worker education about the hazards of the materials they work with in the course of their duties. The data-gathering elements of a medical surveillance program are used to establish a baseline of workers' health and then to monitor their future health for any changes that **MAY** result from exposure to HDs.

Elements of a medical surveillance program **SHOULD** be consistent with the entity's Human Resource policies and **SHOULD** include:

- Development of an organized approach to identify workers who are potentially exposed to HDs on the basis of their job duties
- Use of an entity-based or contracted employee health service to perform the medical surveillance while protecting the confidentiality of the employees' personal medical information
- Initial baseline assessment (pre-placement) of a worker's health status and medical history. Data elements collected include a medical (including reproductive) history and work history to assess exposure to HDs, physical examination, and laboratory testing. Methods used to assess exposure history include a review of:
 - Records of HDs handled, with quantities and dosage forms
 - Estimated number of HDs handled per week
 - Estimates of hours spent handling HDs per week and/or per month
 - Performance of a physical assessment and laboratory studies linked to target organs of commonly used HDs, such as a baseline complete blood count. Biological monitoring to determine blood or urine levels of specific HDs is not currently recommended in surveillance protocols, but **MAY** have a role in the follow-up of acute spills with a specific agent.
- Medical records of surveillance **SHOULD** be maintained according to OSHA regulation concerning access to employee exposure and medical records
- Monitoring workers' health prospectively through periodic surveillance using the elements of data gathering described above (updated health and exposure history, physical assessment, and laboratory measures, if appropriate)
- Monitoring of the data to identify prevention failure leading to health effects; this monitoring **MAY** occur in collaboration with the employee health service
- Development of a follow-up plan for workers who have shown health changes suggesting toxicity or who have experienced an acute exposure. This follow-up **SHOULD** include evaluation of current engineering and administrative controls and equipment to ensure that all systems are appropriately and accurately implemented (see *Follow-Up Plan*)
- Completion of an exit examination when a worker's employment at the entity ends, to document the information on the employee's medical, reproductive, and exposure histories. Examination and laboratory evaluation **SHOULD** be guided by the individual's history of exposures and follow the outline of the periodic evaluation

18.1 Follow-Up Plan

The occurrence of exposure-related health changes **SHOULD** prompt immediate re-evaluation of primary preventive measures (e.g., administrative and engineering controls, PPE, and others). In this manner, medical surveillance acts as a check on the effectiveness of controls already in use.

The entity **SHOULD** take the following actions:

- Perform a post-exposure examination tailored to the type of exposure (e.g., spills or needle sticks from syringes containing HDs). An assessment of the extent of exposure **SHOULD** be conducted and included in a confidential database and in an incident report. The physical examination **SHOULD** focus on the involved area as well as other organ systems commonly affected (i.e., the skin and mucous membranes for direct contact or inhalation; the pulmonary system for aerosolized HDs). Treatment and laboratory studies will follow as indicated and be guided by emergency protocols
- Compare performance of controls with recommended standards; conduct environmental sampling when analytical methods are available
- Verify and document that all engineering controls are in proper operating condition
- Verify and document that the worker complied with existing policies. Review policies for the use of PPE and employee compliance with PPE use and policies. Review availability of appropriate PPE (see *Personal Protective Equipment*)
- Develop and document a plan of action that will prevent additional exposure of workers
- Ensure confidential, two-way communication between the worker and the employee health unit(s) regarding notification, discussions about a change in health condition, or detection of an adverse health effect
- Provide and document a follow-up medical survey to demonstrate that the plan implemented is effective
- Ensure that any exposed worker receives confidential notification of any adverse health effect. Offer alternative duty or temporary reassignment
- Provide ongoing medical surveillance of all workers at risk for exposure to HDs to determine whether the plan implemented is effective

GLOSSARY

Active pharmaceutical ingredient (API):

Any substance or mixture of substances intended to be used in the compounding of a drug preparation, thereby becoming the active ingredient in that preparation and furnishing pharmacological activity or other direct effect in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease in humans and animals or affecting the structure and function of the body.

Alternative duty:

Performance of other tasks that do not include the direct handling of HDs.

Ante-room:

An ISO Class 7 or cleaner room where personnel hand hygiene, garbing procedures, and other activities that generate high particulate levels are performed. The ante-room is the transition room between the unclassified area of the facility and the buffer room.

Assessment of risk:

Evaluation of risk to determine alternative containment strategies and/or work practices.

Beyond-use date (BUD):

The date or time beyond which a compounded preparation cannot not be used and **MUST** be discarded (see [\(795\)](#) and [\(797\)](#)). The date or time is determined from the date or time when the preparation was compounded.

Biological safety cabinet (BSC):

A ventilated cabinet often used for preparation of hazardous drugs. These cabinets are divided into three general classes (Class I, Class II, and Class III). Class II BSCs are further divided into types (Type A1, Type A2, Type B1, and Type B2). See [Appendix 3](#) for details.

Buffer room:

A type of C-SEC under negative pressure that meets ISO Class 7 or better air quality where the C-PEC that generates and maintains an ISO Class 5 environment is physically located. Activities that occur in this area are limited to the preparation and staging of components and supplies used when compounding HDs.

Chemotherapy glove:

A medical glove that meets the ASTM Standard Practice for Assessment of Resistance of Medical Gloves to Permeation by Chemotherapy Drugs (D6978) or its successor.

Classified space:

An area that maintains an air cleanliness classification based on the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

Cleaning:

The process of removing soil (e.g., organic and inorganic material) from objects and surfaces, normally accomplished by manually or mechanically using water with detergents or enzymatic products.

Closed-system drug-transfer device (CSTD):

A drug-transfer device that mechanically prohibits the transfer of environmental contaminants into the system and the escape of HD or vapor concentrations outside the system.

Compounded preparation:

A nonsterile or sterile drug or nutrient preparation that is compounded in a licensed pharmacy or other healthcare-related facility in response to or anticipation of a prescription or a medication order from a licensed prescriber.

Compounding aseptic containment isolator (CACI):

A specific type of CAI that is designed for the compounding of sterile HDs. The CACI is designed to provide worker protection from exposure to undesirable levels of airborne

drugs throughout the compounding and material transfer processes and to provide an aseptic environment with unidirectional airflow for compounding sterile preparations.

Compounding aseptic isolator (CAI):

An isolator specifically designed for compounding sterile, non-hazardous pharmaceutical ingredients or preparations. The CAI is designed to maintain an aseptic compounding environment throughout the compounding and material transfer processes.

Compounding personnel:

Individuals who participate in the compounding process.

Containment primary engineering control (C-PEC):

A ventilated device designed and operated to minimize worker and environmental exposures to HDs by controlling emissions of airborne contaminants through the following:

- The full or partial enclosure of a potential contaminant source
- The use of airflow capture velocities to trap and remove airborne contaminants near their point of generation
- The use of air pressure relationships that define the direction of airflow into the cabinet
- The use of HEPA filtration on all potentially contaminated exhaust streams

Containment secondary engineering control (C-SEC):

The room with fixed walls in which the C-PEC is placed. It incorporates specific design and operational parameters required to contain the potential hazard within the compounding room.

Containment segregated compounding area (C-SCA):

A type of C-SEC with nominal requirements for airflow and room pressurization as they pertain to HD compounding.

Containment ventilated enclosure (CVE):

A full or partial enclosure that uses ventilation principles to capture, contain, and remove airborne contaminants through HEPA filtration and prevent their release into the work environment.

Deactivation:

Treatment of an HD contaminant on surfaces with a chemical, heat, ultraviolet light, or another agent to transform the HD into a less hazardous agent.

Decontamination:

Inactivation, neutralization, or removal of HD contaminants on surfaces, usually by chemical means.

Doff:

To remove PPE.

Don:

To put on PPE.

Disinfection:

The process of inhibiting or destroying microorganisms.

Engineering control:

Primary, secondary, and supplemental devices designed to eliminate or reduce worker exposure to HDs.

EPA-registered disinfectant:

Antimicrobial products registered with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for healthcare use against pathogens specified in the product labeling.

Externally vented:

Exhausted to the outside.

Final dosage form:

Any form of a medication that requires no further manipulation before administration.

Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS):

A system for standardizing and harmonizing the classification and labeling of chemicals.

Goggles:

Tight-fitting eye protection that completely covers the eyes, eye sockets, and facial area that immediately surrounds the eyes. Goggles provide protection from impact, dust, and splashes. Some goggles fit over corrective lenses.

Hazardous drug (HD):

Any drug identified by at least one of the following criteria:

- Carcinogenicity, teratogenicity, or developmental toxicity
- Reproductive toxicity in humans
- Organ toxicity at low dose in humans or animals
- Genotoxicity or new drugs that mimic existing HDs in structure or toxicity

High-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filtration:

An extended-medium, dry-type filter in a rigid frame, having a minimum particle collection efficiency of 99.97% for particles with a mass median diameter of 0.3 μm when tested at a rated airflow in accordance with MIL STD 282 using IEST Recommended Standard RP-CC001.5.

Negative-pressure room:

A room that is maintained at a lower pressure than the adjacent areas; therefore the net flow of air is into the room.

Pass-through:

An enclosure with interlocking doors that is positioned between two spaces for the purpose of reducing particulate transfer while moving materials from one space to another. A pass-through serving negative-pressure rooms needs to be equipped with sealed doors.

Personal protective equipment (PPE):

Items such as gloves, gowns, respirators, goggles, faceshields, and others that protect individual workers from hazardous physical or chemical exposures.

Positive-pressure room:

A room that is maintained at a higher pressure than the adjacent areas; therefore, the net flow of air is out of the room.

Repackaging:

The act of removing a product from its original primary container and placing it into another primary container, usually of smaller size.

Safety data sheet (SDS):

An informational document that provides written or printed material concerning a hazardous chemical. The SDS is prepared in accordance with the HCS [previously known as a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS)].

Spill kit:

A container of supplies, warning signage, and related materials used to contain the spill of an HD.

Standard operating procedure (SOP):

Written procedures describing operations, testing, sampling, interpretation of results, and corrective actions that relate to the operations that are taking place.

Supplemental engineering control:

An adjunct control (e.g., CSTD) that **MAY** be used concurrently with primary and secondary engineering controls. Supplemental engineering controls offer additional levels of protection and **MAY** facilitate enhanced occupational protection, especially when handling HDs outside of primary and secondary engineering controls (e.g., during administering).

Unclassified space:

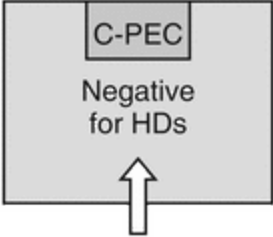
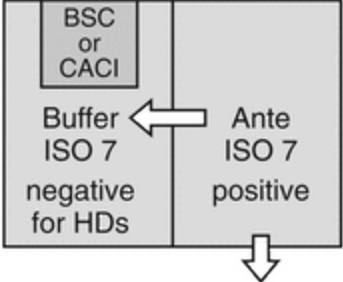
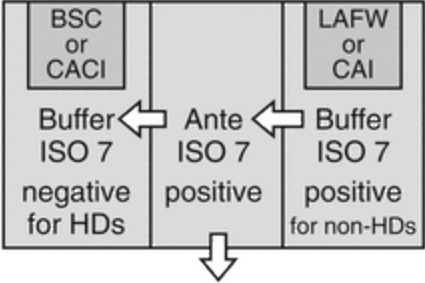
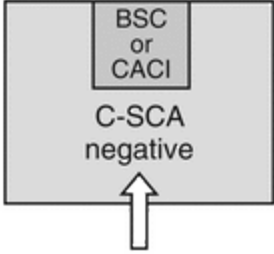
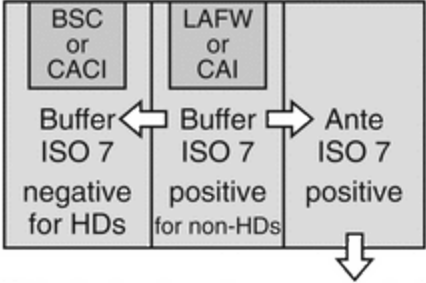
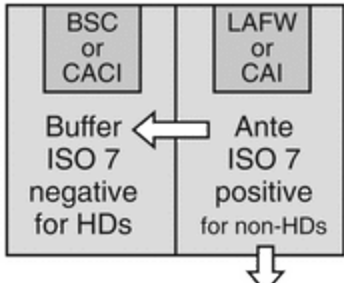
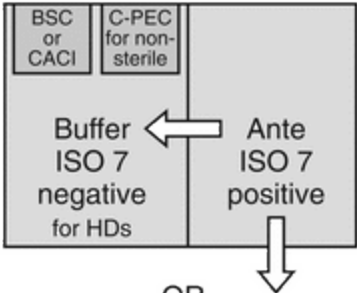

A space not required to meet any air cleanliness classification based on the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

APPENDICES**Appendix 1: Acronyms**

ACPH	Air changes per hour
API	Active pharmaceutical ingredient
ASTM	American Society for Testing and Materials
BSC	Biological safety cabinet
BUD	Beyond-use date
CACI	Compounding aseptic containment isolator
CAI	Compounding aseptic isolator
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
C-PEC	Containment primary engineering control
C-SCA	Containment segregated compounding area

C-SEC	Containment secondary engineering control
CSP	Compounded sterile preparation
CSTD	Closed-system drug-transfer device
CVE	Containment ventilated enclosure
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
GHS	Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals
HCS	Hazard Communication Standard
HD	Hazardous drug
HEPA	High-efficiency particulate air
IV	Intravenous
LAFW	Laminar airflow workbench
NIOSH	National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
ONS	Oncology Nursing Society
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
PAPR	Powered air-purified respirator
PPE	Personal protective equipment
SDS	Safety Data Sheet
SOP	Standard operating procedure
ULPA	Ultra-low particulate air
UPS	Uninterrupted power source

Appendix 2: Examples of Designs for Hazardous Drug Compounding Areas

Use	Optimal Primary and Secondary Control	Minimum ACPH	Limitations Primary and Secondary Control	Minimum ACPH	
Nonsterile HD compounding		12			
Sterile HD compounding	 <p>OR</p> 	30	 <p>OR</p>  <p>This design is not recommended</p> <p>OR</p>  <p>Typically used in oncology clinic settings.</p>	12 30 30	Ma des for con If th me tak con pos roo Ma des
Both sterile HD and nonsterile HD compounding	A separate room for sterile and nonsterile compounding is recommended		 <p>OR</p> 	30 12	For ste con ger not ste is i mu apa Ma des

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Appendix 3: Types of Biological Safety Cabinets

Class I: A BSC that protects personnel and the environment but does not protect the product/preparation. A minimum velocity of 75 linear feet/minute of unfiltered room air is drawn through the front opening and across the work surface, providing personnel protection. The air is then passed through a HEPA/ULPA (ultra-low particulate air) filter, either into the room or to the outside in the exhaust plenum, providing environmental protection.

Class II: Class II (Types A1, A2, B1, and B2) BSCs are partial barrier systems that rely on the movement of air to provide personnel, environmental, and product/preparation protection. Personnel and product/preparation protection are provided by the combination of inward and downward airflow captured by the front grille of the cabinet. Side-to-side cross-contamination of products/preparations is minimized by the internal downward flow of HEPA/ULPA filtered air moving toward the work surface and then drawn into the front and rear intake grilles. Environmental protection is provided when the cabinet exhaust air is passed through a HEPA/ULPA filter.

Type A1 (formerly, Type A): These Class II BSCs maintain a minimum inflow velocity of 75 feet/minute; have HEPA-filtered, down-flow air that is a portion of the mixed down-flow and inflow air from a common plenum; **MAY** exhaust HEPA-filtered air back into the laboratory or to the environment through an exhaust canopy; and **MAY** have positive-pressure contaminated ducts and plenums that are not surrounded by negative-pressure plenums. Type A1 BSCs are not suitable for use with volatile toxic chemicals and volatile radionuclides.

Type A2 (formerly, Type B3): These Class II BSCs maintain a minimum inflow velocity of 100 feet/minute; have HEPA-filtered, down-flow air that is a portion of the mixed down-flow and inflow air from a common exhaust plenum; **MAY** exhaust HEPA-filtered air back into the laboratory or to the environment through an exhaust canopy; and have all contaminated ducts and plenums under negative pressure or surrounded by negative-pressure ducts and plenums. If these cabinets are used for minute quantities of volatile toxic chemicals and trace amounts of radionuclides, they **MUST** be exhausted through properly functioning exhaust canopies.

Type B1: These Class II BSCs maintain a minimum inflow velocity of 100 feet/minute; have HEPA-filtered, down-flow air composed largely of uncontaminated, recirculated inflow air; exhaust most of the contaminated down-flow air through a dedicated duct exhausted to the atmosphere after passing it through a HEPA filter; and have all contaminated ducts and plenums under negative pressure or surrounded by negative-pressure ducts and plenums. If these cabinets are used for work involving minute quantities of volatile toxic chemicals and trace amounts of radionuclides, the work **MUST** be done in the directly exhausted portion of the cabinet.

Type B2 (total exhaust): These Class II BSCs maintain a minimum inflow velocity of 100 feet/minute; have HEPA-filtered, down-flow air drawn from the laboratory or the outside; exhaust all inflow and down-flow air to the atmosphere after filtration through a HEPA filter without recirculation inside the cabinet or return to the laboratory; and have all contaminated ducts and plenums under negative pressure or surrounded by directly exhausted negative-pressure ducts and plenums. These cabinets **MAY** be used with volatile toxic chemicals and radionuclides.

Class III: The Class III BSC is designed for work with highly infectious microbiological agents and other hazardous operations. It provides maximum protection for the environment and the worker. It is a gas-tight enclosure with a viewing window that is secured with locks and/or requires the use of tools to open. Both supply and exhaust air are HEPA/ULPA filtered. Exhaust air **MUST** pass through two HEPA/ULPA filters in series before discharge to the outdoors.

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