

Hazardous drugs

Instructions

Read the background out loud and use the guiding questions to facilitate a discussion about hazardous drugs.

After this huddle

Staff should be able to:

- Identify what a hazardous drug is
- Reduce their risk of exposure to hazardous drugs

Notes to the huddle leader

Review your organization's exposure control plan for hazardous drugs. This document should include what training is required, who should receive the training, and what should be done in the event of exposure.

Background

Hazardous drugs are used for a variety of treatments, including cancer, arthritis, multiple sclerosis, auto-immune disorders and HIV.

Hazardous drug administration is becoming more common in home care and other community health services. An exposure control plan is required when any worker may interact with a hazardous drug.

Your exposure control plan will describe the work procedures for safe interaction with hazardous drugs and waste.

Exposure to hazardous drugs and waste can occur through handling bedpans, catheter bags, vomit bowls, bed linen, soiled clothing or spills. Training for safe handling procedures for hazardous drugs and waste must be in place to prevent exposure to staff.

Hazardous drugs may be toxic when inappropriately handled and should only be administered by trained and authorized staff.



Guiding questions

- What training is required to handle hazardous drugs?
- Where do you review your exposure control plan?
- How would you know if a person in care is receiving hazardous drugs?
- What should you do if you are exposed to hazardous drugs?
- Who should you ask if you need more information?

