

# MEDICAL PHARMACIES DRUG NEWS

Drug Information and News for Health Care Providers

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## CYTOTOXIC/HAZARDOUS DRUGS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) in the U.S. has recently updated the list of drugs that can pose health risks to people working in healthcare settings for which safe-handling precautions should be taken.

### Some types of drugs that are considered cytotoxic/hazardous

Cancer drugs	Some antiviral medications
Hormone therapies	Biologic drugs

### What are the potential risks with these drugs?

They may affect the person handling the drug by causing reproductive or developmental toxicity, organ toxicity, or damage to genetic material in the body's cells, or they may be cytotoxic (kill body cells).

### How can you reduce your risk?

Cutting, crushing, or manipulating tablets and capsules poses a higher risk compared to administering whole tablets or capsules. If you must manipulate the tablets or capsules, ensure that you use personal protective equipment (PPE), which may include gloves, a gown, and/or a mask.



### Examples of Most Commonly Used Cytotoxic/Hazardous Drugs

Cytotoxic Drugs		Hazardous Drugs	
Drug Name	Brand Name(s)	Drug Name	Brand Name(s)
Anastrozole	Arimidex®	Spironolactone	Aldactone®
Methotrexate	Methotrexate (generics)	Estradiol, Estrogen	Premarin® and others
Tamoxifen	Nolvadex®-D	Clonazepam	Rivotril®
Hydroxyurea	Hydrea®	Temazepam	Restoril®
Bicalutamide	Casodex®	Finasteride	Proscar®
Fluorouracil	Efudex®	Carbamazepine	Tegretol®
Goserelin	Zoladex®	Phenytoin	Dilantin®
Leuprolide	Lupron®	Dutasteride	Avodart®
Imiquimod	Aldara®/Vyloma®	Warfarin	Coumadin®

Reference: NIOSH 2016. NIOSH list of antineoplastic and other hazardous drugs in healthcare settings, 2016. Connor TH, MacKenzie BA, DeBord DG, et al. Cincinnati, OH: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. DHHS (NIOSH) Publication Number 2016-161.