

USP 800 takes effect December 1, 2019

What is the USP 800? The [U.S. Pharmacopeial Convention \(USP\)](#) has drafted a new chapter [<800> Hazardous Drugs – Handling in Healthcare Settings](#) chapter which provides guidance on the handling of hazardous drugs in healthcare settings, and includes requirements for receipt, storage, mixing, preparing, compounding, dispensing, and administration of hazardous drugs to protect the patient, healthcare personnel, and environment. It covers all healthcare entities that store, prepare, transport, or administer hazardous drugs, including pharmacies and veterinary clinics; and it applies to all healthcare personnel who handle hazardous drugs, including veterinarians and veterinary technicians.

What are hazardous drugs?

According to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), a drug is hazardous or potentially hazardous if it has any of the following effects:

- carcinogenicity
- teratogenicity or developmental toxicity
- reproductive toxicity in humans
- organ toxicity at low doses in humans or animals
- genotoxicity

Drugs that mimic existing hazardous drugs in structure or toxicity also are considered hazardous. For example, all anti-neoplastic drugs (used in chemotherapy to kill cancer cells) used in practice qualify as hazardous drugs. Apomorphine, cyclosporine, and fluconazole are other commonly used drugs that are also on the [NIOSH list of hazardous drugs](#) approved for use in humans. Although veterinary-only drugs aren't included in the list, some of them meet the NIOSH criteria and should be considered hazardous and handled appropriately.

What is Safe Handling of HD? General Chapter <800> describes the safe handling standards that apply to all healthcare personnel who receive, prepare, administer, transport or otherwise come in contact with hazardous drugs and all the environments in which they are handled. Practices must have a written SOP and train employees before handling HD and those of reproductive capability must confirm in writing they understand the risks of handling HDs. This includes a list of HDs, exposure, designated personnel, signs, handling, PPE, written hazard communication plan, SDS and labeling, training and competency assessment, administration, disposal, cleaning, spills, and more.

For more information see: **Safe Handling of Hazardous Drugs for Veterinary Health Care Workers**
DHHS (NIOSH) Publication No. 2010-150

HSAH CTP training meets USP 800 requirements for veterinary practices.

