FIRST STEPS TO USP CHAPTER 800 COMPLIANCE: IDENTIFYING NIOSH HAZARDOUS DRUGS

USP Chapter 800 was published February 1, 2016 with an implementation date of July 1, 2018. This USP Chapter has a different scope than USP Chapters 795 and 797. Whereas USP 795 and 797 promote protection of the patient regarding non-sterile and sterile compounding, USP 800 promotes the protection of the patient, the worker and the environment in any situation in which a National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) hazardous drug is present. It also has a broader scope in that it applies to receiving, storing, compounding, dispensing, administering and disposing of NIOSH hazardous drugs.

The NIOSH list of hazardous drugs is not the same as OSHA or EPA lists of hazardous drugs, although some drugs may be on all lists. NIOSH publishes its list in even years with the most current version being 2014. (See link at the end of the article.) As mentioned in a previous article, there are 3 categories of NIOSH hazardous drugs: antineoplastic drugs, non-antineoplastic drugs and reproductive hazard drugs.

The first step is to identify the NIOSH hazardous drugs handled by the pharmacy. Every pharmacy will be required to review the NIOSH list and compile its own list of NIOSH hazardous drugs and dosage forms handled at the pharmacy. This pharmacy specific list must be reviewed, and the review documented, annually. Depending on the category and dosage form of the NIOSH hazardous drugs, the pharmacy may have follow all the containment strategies required or may be able to perform an assessment of risk with alternate work strategies.

Link to NIOSH List of Hazardous Drugs 2014:
http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2014-138/pdfs/2014-138.pdf