

Dragon, Karen E. (CDC/NIOSH/EID)

From: Connor, Thomas H. (CDC/NIOSH/DART)
Sent: Friday, September 30, 2011 2:40 PM
To: deborah.maddox@dbhds.virginia.gov
Cc: Dragon, Karen E. (CDC/NIOSH/EID); NIOSH Docket Office (CDC); MacKenzie, Barbara A. (CDC/NIOSH/DART); DeBord, Gayle (CDC/NIOSH/DART)
Subject: RE: 190 - NIOSH List of Antineoplastic and Other Hazardous Drugs in Healthcare Settings 2012: Proposed Additions and Deletions to the NIOSH Hazardous Drug List

Dear Ms: Maddox:

NIOSH follows a very rigorous review process when evaluating drugs as to their potential to be occupational hazards. We monitor all new FDA drug approvals and all new FDA drug warnings (usually black box warnings) for a given period of time.

An internal NIOSH committee reviews all this information on a regular basis.

Proposed additions to the list of hazardous drugs are reviewed by 10 experts (both peer reviewers and stakeholders). These include representatives from drug manufacturers, pharmacy, nursing, government organizations such as FDA and OSHA and several other individuals.

Based on the reviewers' comments, NIOSH then publishes a proposed list of additions in the Federal Register for public comment, for which the current comment period will end next Monday.

The NIOSH committee will then review all comments and develop a final list that has to be approved by the Officer of the Director of NIOSH.

If approved, the list is published in the FR and on the NIOSH website.

The purpose of the list is not to alarm patients or healthcare workers, but to inform worker which drug may pose an occupational hazard and require proper safe handling procedures. Practically all the chemotherapy drugs have safe handling warnings from the manufacturer. NIOSH attempts to cover those drugs that do not have warning but that may be hazardous to workers.

All drugs are hazardous to some degree. With patients, the benefit typically outweighs the risk. With healthcare workers, who do not need these drugs, there is no benefit, only risk.

Thank you for your feedback on this topic.

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From: Maddox, Deborah (DBHDS) [<mailto:deborah.maddox@dbhds.virginia.gov>]

Sent: Friday, September 30, 2011 2:12 PM

To: NIOSH Docket Office (CDC)

Subject: 190 - NIOSH List of Antineoplastic and Other Hazardous Drugs in Healthcare Settings 2012: Proposed Additions and Deletions to the NIOSH Hazardous Drug List

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like access to the research that has lead to the proposed changes. I fail to see how this proposal will enhance care and negate fear in both, people who take these drugs and people who administer them.

Thank you.