

## **Safe Handling of Cytotoxic Drugs**

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It is reasonable to suspect that health care workers or others who repeatedly handle or are exposed to cytotoxic agents may be at risk. The risk of handling these substances is directly related to the toxicity of the individual cytotoxic agents and the degree to which staff are exposed. Contact with cytotoxic agents can occur through inhalation of substances in the air, contact with contaminated clothing, medical equipment, body fluids or other surfaces in the work area.

The goal of the Safe Handling of Cytotoxic Drugs Project is to develop standardized policies, procedures and guidelines for safe handling of cytotoxic drugs to protect the health of staff that prepare, administer or work in areas where cytotoxic agents are used. Implementation is not in the scope of this phase of the project.