



MM.13.8 Eye wash station and emergency water shower are available where hazardous medications and pharmaceutical chemicals are located.

MM.13.9 The hospital staff are well educated on the proper storage and handling of hazardous medications and pharmaceutical chemicals and spill management.

Standard Intent:

Worker exposure to hazardous drugs has been identified by OSHA as a problem of increasing health concern. Improper storage and handling of hazardous medications and pharmaceutical chemicals may expose healthcare workers to potentially significant levels of these chemicals. Antineoplastic cytotoxic medications, anesthetic agents, anti-viral agents, and others, have been identified as hazardous. These hazardous medications are capable of causing serious effects including cancer, organ toxicity, fertility problems, genetic damage, and birth defects. Hospital should create and keep a current list of drugs considered to be hazardous in their workplace. Use the criteria and sources of information provided by NIOSH, as well as specific information found in each manufacturer's Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) to create a list of Hazardous Drugs used in their specific department.

Hazardous drugs are stored in a separate, labelled and secured cabinets away from non-hazardous drugs while flammables require special fire-safety cabinet with proper ventilation. Spill control protocols (e.g. spills kits and use of emergency eyewash stations and showers) should be readily available. A key element of this safety program is the availability of Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for all hazardous agents in the workplace. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) are essential for handling hazardous drugs. Staff education on safe handling and spill management is of paramount importance.

MM.14 The hospital has a system for ensuring stability of medications available in multi-dose containers.

MM.14.1 The hospital develops and maintains a set of guidelines for ensuring stability of multi-dose vials, vaccines, multi-dose oral liquids, and other multi-dose medications (e.g., eye, ear, and nasal drops, creams, ointments, nebulization solutions).

MM.14.2 The hospital ensures that all open multi-dose containers are labeled with open date, expiry date, initials, and time (if necessary).

MM.14.3 The hospital ensures that no expired open or unlabeled open multi-dose containers are available in patient care areas.
