

Recognising and Preparing Cytotoxic and Cytostatic Drugs for Disposal

The Department of Health Safe Management of Health Care Waste – Version 2 England have produced a list of examples of non chemotherapy cytotoxic and cytostatic drugs and cancer chemotherapy drugs to promote identifying and disposing of these drugs appropriately. Under the waste regulations, these drugs must be disposed of as “hazardous waste”.

Nursing homes – will be required to dispose of their cytotoxic / cytostatic drug waste in a designated receptacle (purple lidded bin) and accompanied with a consignment note when collected by the waste disposal company.

Residential homes – will be required to highlight any of these drugs that are no longer required by the service user to the community pharmacy who will then dispose of it appropriately. If this waste is a used injection then it should be placed in a purple lidded sharps receptacle, which may be prescribed on an FP10, and taken to the GP practice for destruction.

The list below can be used as a guide and is a selection of drugs which you may come across in the care home setting. The full list is available at the link (pg 399 to 402) below but may not include all very new, unlicensed or trial medicines.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_126345

Example list of non- chemotherapy cytotoxic / cytostatic drugs

Anastrozole (e.g. Arimidex [®])	Exemestane (e.g. Aromasin [®])	Oestrogen containing products (Various)
Azathioprine (e.g. Imuran [®])	Finasteride (e.g. Proscar [®])	Progesterone containing products (Various)
Chloramphenicol (e.g. Chloromycetin [®]) – includes eye drops with a concentration of 0.1%	Goserelin.(Zoladex [®])	Raloxifene (Evista [®])
Ciclosporin ((Deximune [®] , Neoral [®])	Leflunomide (Arava [®])	Tacrolimus - prescribed by brand e.g. Prograf [®] , Advagraf [®]
Coal tar containing products e.g. Polytar [®] ,	Letrozole (Femara [®])	Tamoxifen (Nolvadex [®])
Colchicine	Leuprorelin (Prostap [®])	Testosterone based products (Various)
Danazol (Danol [®])	Medroxyprogesterone (e.g. Provera [®])	Thalidomide
Diethylstilbestrol	Megestrol (e.g. Megace [®])	Toremifene (Fareston [®])
Dithranol containing products e.g. (Dithrocream [®])	Mycophenolate (e.g. CellCept [®])	Triptorelin (e.g. Decapeptyl [®])

Example list oral cancer chemotherapy drugs

Cyclophosphamide
Hydroxycarbamide (e.g. Hydrea [®])*
Mercaptopurine (e.g. Purinethol [®])
Methotrexate (e.g. Maxtrex [®])*
Procarbazine

Note:- Items marked * have uses other than in the treatment of cancer