



UK Chemotherapy Board

STATEMENT ON CLOSED-SYSTEM DRUG-TRANSFER DEVICES FOR ADMINISTRATION OF SYSTEMIC ANTI-CANCER THERAPIES

The UK Chemotherapy Board welcomes the publication of the Cochrane systematic review into the effectiveness of using closed-system drug-transfer devices, in addition to safe handling techniques alone, for reducing risk of exposure to staff when administering infusional hazardous drugs. This important work was commissioned by the UK Oncology Nursing Society (UKONS).

It is essential that the risk of occupational exposure to hazardous drugs, such as those used in systemic anti-cancer treatment, is minimised for all healthcare staff involved in their administration. Investigation of the efficacy of closed-system drug-transfer devices is therefore important to establish whether such devices provide additional protection to staff, above current processes. Such research is needed to ensure the continued and ongoing safety of staff.

The UK Chemotherapy Board notes the finding of the review that there is currently no evidence to suggest that the use of closed-system drug-transfer devices provides additional benefits compared with safe handling alone. However, in view of the low quality of evidence available at this time, it supports the recommendation of UKONS that further research is needed this area.

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