

# What's New: New Hazardous Drug Alerts and Hover Tips

**When:** May 24, 2022

## **What's the Change**

As part of a provincial change, cytotoxic drugs are being re-categorized as either Group 1 or Group 2 Hazardous Drugs.

## **Why the Change**

The BC Health Authorities' Provincial Hazardous Drug Exposure Control Program implemented a new system to replace the existing use of the term 'Cytotoxic' with a classification of 'Hazardous Drug Group 1' and 'Hazardous Drug Group 2'.

The new Hazardous Drugs classification better communicates the personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements when handling/dispensing Group 1 and Group 2 drugs.

## **What's Changing**

The 'Cytotoxic Med Precautions' client alert has been end dated and two new alerts of 'Hazardous Drug Group 1' and 'Hazardous Drug Group 2' have been created to replace it.

In addition, three PARIS hover tips that referenced cytotoxic drugs have been updated to align with the overall change:

- *Blood and Body Fluids/Biohazard* field in the Risk Screen
- *Comments* field in the Medication Management section of the Intake Screener V2 Assessment
- *Chemo Infusion Completed* field in the Chemotherapy section of the IV Flowsheet V2 Assessment

## **What You Need to Know Going Forward**

The 'Cytotoxic Med Precautions' client alert can no longer be selected when creating a new alert, but any clients who already have the active alert will continue to have the alert.

If your clients have the 'Cytotoxic Med Precautions' alert active, review their medications to determine if the alert can be ended or if the alert should be replaced by one of the new Hazardous Drug alerts.

## **Where to Find Support**

Please contact your team lead, your Professional Practice lead, or your Clinical Systems Support Educator (CommunityInformatics@vch.ca).

**For More Information...**

[VCH Exposure Prevention and Management](#) (visible only on VCH network)