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Study Concludes Using a CSTD Reduces Surface Contamination with Antineoplastic Drugs in Hospital Pharmacies

Using the PhaSeal® System Contributes to a Reduced Exposure Potential for Healthcare Workers

COLUMBUS, OH (April 6, 2011) – A study published in the Journal of Oncology Pharmacy Practice shows the use of the PhaSeal System, a closed-system drug transfer device for the safe handling of hazardous drugs, significantly reduces surface contamination in hospital pharmacies when preparing the following antineoplastic drugs: cyclophosphamide, ifosfamide, and 5-fluorouracil.¹¹

The objective of the study was to assess the ability of PhaSeal to reduce surface contamination compared to standard drug preparation techniques. Results show that after implementing PhaSeal, median values for surface contamination with cyclophosphamide, ifosfamide, and 5-fluorouracil were reduced by 95%, 90% and 65% respectively.

During the five-year test period, 114 wipe samples were selected from 22 hospital pharmacies. The study was conducted over an extend period of time to employ a uniform study design and to allow time for a fair comparison. The disadvantages of previous studies were (1) the limited number of facilities and (2) results could not be compared with each other due to the various methodologies employed in each study.

After the first series of wipe samples were taken, PhaSeal was introduced into the hospitals. Several months after the PhaSeal implementation, wipe samples were taken from the same surfaces and contamination was reassessed. Sampling surfaces included biological safety cabinet (BSC) surfaces, BSC airfoils, floors in front of BSCs, and counters. Results show the BSC airfoils to be the most heavily contaminated surfaces.

The study reveals reducing environmental contamination with antineoplastic drugs can contribute to a reduced exposure potential for healthcare workers.

Background on Contamination

Over the last 20 years, several studies have been published showing environmental contamination with antineoplastic drugs in hospital pharmacies. In addition, the studies have shown that antineoplastic drugs are inadvertently absorbed by healthcare workers through environmental exposure as determined by the presence of the parent compound and/or its metabolite(s) in their urine.

About Carmel Pharma (the maker of the PhaSeal System)

Carmel Pharma AB, headquartered in Gothenburg, Sweden, is the manufacturer of the PhaSeal System for the safe handling of hazardous drugs. In the United States, PhaSeal is distributed by an U.S. affiliate office, Carmel Pharma, Inc., located in Columbus, OH. The PhaSeal System has been in use in the U.S. since 1999 and implemented in more than 2000 cancer facilities, infusion centers and private practices, including M.D. Anderson and Texas Children's in Houston, TX; City of Hope in Duarte, CA; Dana Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, MA; Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, TN; and Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD, just to name a few. For more information on Carmel Pharma or the PhaSeal System, please visit www.phaseal.com or email info@carmelpharmausa.com. To request additional product details, high-resolution imagery, story ideas and expert references, or to learn more about the topic of safe handling from today's clinical thought leaders, please visit www.carmelpharmausa.com/media or contact Laura Scherer at 614-318-2635 or laura.scherer@carmelpharma.com.

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Sessink Paul, Connor Thomas, Jorgenson James, et al. Reduction in surface contamination with antineoplastic drugs in 22 hospital pharmacies in the US following implementation of a closed-system drug transfer device. **Journal of Oncology Pharmacy Practice**. 2010; 17(1):39-48