

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Use of PhaSeal® System Provides Major Reduction in Contamination of Work Environment

COLUMBUS, OH (April 6, 2011) – A recent study published in the Journal of Oncology Pharmacy Practice shows using the PhaSeal System, a closed-system drug transfer device for the safe handling of hazardous drugs, reduces environmental contamination by 93% when preparing chemotherapy in a biological safety cabinet (BSC) and 100% in an isolator.¹

The primary objective of the study was to compare the levels of environmental contamination before and after the introduction of PhaSeal in two French hospital pharmacies. A total of 100 chemotherapy preparations were prepared using the standard procedure and 100 preparations using PhaSeal. Contamination may occur through local contamination of septum caps and membranes or drug spillage. To detect contamination, drugs were supplemented with a solution of fluorescein dye or fluorescein powder because fluorescein is harmless to operators and becomes fluorescent to UV light. Results show that when using PhaSeal, local contaminations to septum caps and membranes decreased totally compared with the standard procedure, and the risk of drug spillage was completely eliminated with the use of PhaSeal.

The secondary objective was to assess the impact of the device on the duration of drug preparation on 100 samples compared to procedures using the needles and syringes. To test this, the duration of the different steps of the manipulation were timed. The duration of preparation was approximately one hour longer when PhaSeal was included, which the study indicates is acceptable when weighed against the gain in occupational safety for the operator.

This study establishes the benefit of using PhaSeal for protecting the staff members who work with hazardous agents and proves the duration of drug preparation is not impacted by the use of the system. The study also shows using PhaSeal eliminates the risk for drug spillage. PhaSeal was provided by Carmel Pharma; however, no representative from the firm participated at any stage of the study.

Background

Occupational contamination in healthcare workers exposed to hazardous drugs has been a major concern for more than 25 years. Traces of cytotoxic contamination are frequently reported in the pharmacy where the drugs are prepared, regardless of whether protection is provided by biological safety cabinets (BSC) or by isolators.

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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¹Favier B, Labrosse H, Gilles-Afchain, L, et al. The PhaSeal system: Impact of its use on workplace contamination and duration of chemotherapy preparation. *Journal of Oncology Pharmacy Practice*. 2011; 0(0):1-9