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Product News for Pharmacy Services, Purchasing, and IT

Product Spotlight

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PhaSeal from Carmel Pharma, Inc.

CHEMOTHERAPY AGENTS

can be of great benefit to the health of cancer patients. However, they pose serious risks to the health care workers that handle them. In addition to the attention given to these risks by the NIOSH Hazardous Drug Alert, several clinical studies have shown that leakage during the preparation and administration of these drugs leads to the contamination of laminar airflow workbenches, biological safety cabinets, and drug vials, to name a few. Studies have also found traces of cytostatic agents in health care workers' urine. Exposure to these hazardous agents can potentially lead to liver damage, leukemia, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, and skin cancer, as well as miscarriages and birth defects in the children of those exposed. Fortunately, there are mechanisms health care workers can use to reduce or prevent such harmful exposure.

The University of Utah Health Sciences Center has used Carmel Pharma's PhaSeal System as part of our chemotherapy procedures for the past five years. The only clinically proven closed-system drug transfer device on the market, PhaSeal is in use at the University of Utah Hospital, as well as the Huntsman Cancer Hospital and ambulatory clinic. We employ the device when compounding chemotherapy drugs in the pharmacy and administering them to patients on the nurs-



ing units. In fact, we use PhaSeal in the pharmacy when compounding 95% of our overall doses. We use the system whenever we can, as it offers vital worker protection from exposure to hazardous drugs.

Product Features

PhaSeal ensures a dry connection using double membranes that act as seals to ensure the leak-free transfer of drugs, during both the compounding and administration processes. PhaSeal's sealed expansion chamber captures aerosols and vapors, while maintaining equal

pressure in the vial during drug preparation, thereby preventing employee and surface contamination. PhaSeal's needle-safe design provides a sealed transfer and enables the user to retrieve all of the drug from the vial during the transfer process.

PhaSeal in Use

In the pharmacy, technicians first apply an appropriately sized PhaSeal protector to the vials that will be compounded. Using PhaSeal, the technicians then reconstitute the drugs and add other components to the IV bag via the PhaSeal connector, which is attached to the permanent spike. We then prime the tubing with non-chemotherapy agents, so that it is ready to administer on the nursing units. Per USP <797> mandates, our pharmacy staff only uses PhaSeal while compounding

