

IDENTIFICATION OF HAZARDOUS DRUGS IN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT: DRUGS CABINET INSPECTION

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What was done?

The main objective is to label every drug considered “Hazardous” and to review the medication included in the Emergency Department kit in a tertiary hospital.

Why was it done?:

The publication of the NIOSH list and its application by INSHT in Spain has changed the concept of “Hazardous drug” in terms of its handling and administration, as well as personnel training involved in its management.

How was it done?:

Literature about Hazardous drugs was reviewed. All the drugs included in the Emergency Department kit belonging were identified and classified according to their level published in the NIOSH list. A kit’s review was carried out on site, as well as a Hazardous drugs’ categorisation by adequate labels.

NIOSH List of Antineoplastic and Other Hazardous Drugs in Healthcare Settings, 2016



What has been achieved?:

6/239 drugs (9 different presentations) were labelled as Hazardous drugs.

Incident	Number	Measure
Lack of identification	8	Orange labelling for Hazardous drugs’ identification. Misidentified drugs were re-labelled
Location error	4	Misplaced were placed in their assigned spot
Photosensitive (Total photosensitive Drugs : 56)	11 were not correctly identified or stored	Photosensitive drugs were correctly identified by blue labels and properly preserved.
Expired drugs: (Total of expired drugs: 12 (stock 399 units)	51 out of the total amount	Expired drugs were withdrawn

Drug	Risk Level
Chloramphenicol	Level 2
Risperidone	Level 2
Phenytoin	Level 2
Acenocoumarol	Level 3
Colchicine /dicycloverine	Level 3
Valproic Acid	Level 3

What is next?

- Simplifying Hazardous drugs’ identification by a categorisation following a colour code could lead to a safer manipulation
- It is necessary to establish several control measures in emergency kits in order to avoid errors and improve the safety in the use of drugs.

