

HANDLE WITH CARE!

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OBJECTIVE: TO EVALUATE THE QUALITY OF THE CURRENTLY AVAILABLE RESOURCES ON HANDLING BODY FLUIDS OF PATIENTS TAKING ANTINEOPLASTIC DRUGS



BACKGROUND - THE CURRENT SITUATION:

General recommendations are available regarding the handling of excreta from patients taking antineoplastic drugs, however there are significant gaps in the available literature. Drug specific guidelines are particularly lacking and there are inconsistencies in the recommended timeframes for cytotoxic handling precautions to be applied.

WHY?

- Lack of reporting on new drugs
- Absence of drug specific occupational exposure limits
- Limited evidence based risk assessment



When a patient presents to Emergency Department post chemotherapy treatment:

What handling precautions do healthcare workers require?

Do the precautions vary according to time since last dose?

How do precautions differ from drug to drug?

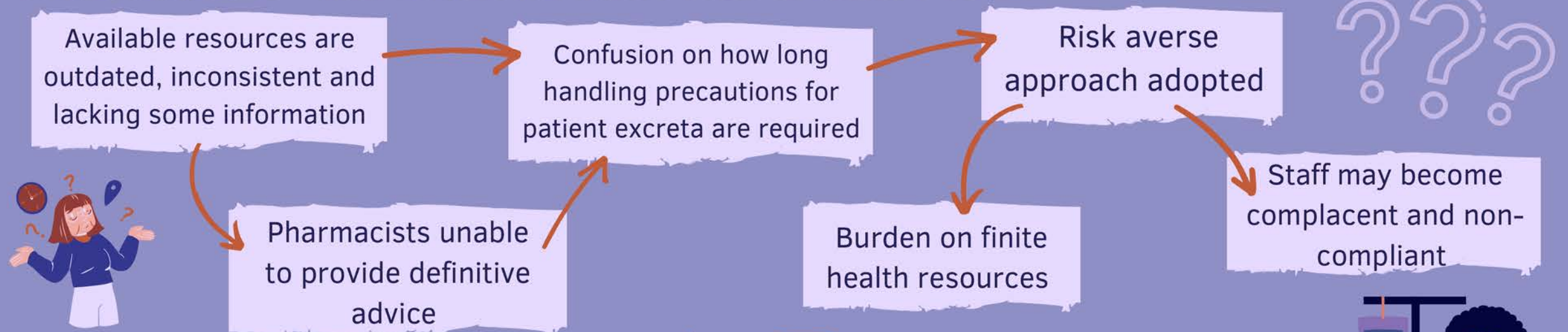
Where can we look to find the answers?

METHODS + EVALUATION:

Forty-four drug monographs were reviewed using a variety of references and a great deal of variability in the data was found. Of note and concern, was the citation of the work by Cass and Musgrave, a comprehensive piece of work published in 1992, by several recent publications. This recycling of information published over 30 years ago indicates the necessity of a review.

Reference	Advantages	Disadvantages
NIOSH "List" 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies hazardous drugs • Includes PPE recommendations • Regularly updated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No precaution timeframes given • No risk assessments or exposure limits given for every drug
Oncology Nursing Society Guidelines 2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes precautionary timeframes for handling patient urine and faeces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Durations inconsistent with other resources • Lacks information on newer antineoplastic drugs
Cass and Musgrave 1992	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes precautionary timeframes for handling patient urine and faeces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Durations inconsistent with other resources • Lacks information on newer antineoplastic drugs • Old reference (>30 years)
VicTAG guidelines 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides classification of hazardous drugs • Detailed PPE recommendations • Recently published resource 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No precautionary timeframes provided • No risk assessments or exposure limits given for every drug

DISCUSSION - IMPLICATIONS IN THE WORKPLACE



HOW CAN WE MITIGATE THE RISK?

Updated and consistent references to allow for development of comprehensive organisational guidelines

