

Chemotherapy Gloves

If the packaging for medical examination gloves or sterile gloves contains no information regarding use with hazardous drugs, can I assume it is not approved for use with chemotherapy/hazardous drugs?

The BC Cancer **Safe Handling Manual** [Module 1 – [Module](#)] states:

“Gloves approved for use with hazardous drugs must be tested with nine chemotherapy drugs as required in the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) Standard D6978-05 (Standard Practice for Assessment of Resistance of Medical Gloves to Permeation by Chemotherapy Gloves).

A report of the ASTM D6978-05 Standard test results indicating the minimum breakthrough detection time for each of the nine drugs tested must be provided to the facility by the glove manufacturer for each brand/type of chemotherapy glove to be worn by staff when handling hazardous drugs. The reported breakthrough detection times must be used to determine if the gloves are appropriate and the length of time that each brand and type of chemotherapy glove may be worn while staff handles hazardous drugs.”

The only way to ensure that a glove is approved/not approved for use with hazardous drugs is to contact the manufacturer and ask for their testing results. You must make sure, however, that you ask for results of this specific ASTM D6978-05 test. There is another ASTM test that is a general one for testing breakthrough time of chemicals and those results should not be used for determining the appropriateness of gloves for use with hazardous drugs.

The manufacturer will send the results of the ASTM D6978-05 test which show the breakthrough time. It is not a pass/fail test. Sometimes manufacturers state that their gloves have not been tested to this ASTM D6978-05 standard. If this is the case, the gloves are not approved for use with hazardous drugs.

When preparing thiotepa or carmustine, pay close attention to the breakthrough times of the chemotherapy gloves as these drugs generally have a very low breakthrough time (i.e., less

than 30 minutes). With these drugs, gloves worn must be changed according to the breakthrough time reported by the manufacturer when tested to ASTM Standard D6978-05.

Reviewed: April 24, 2018