Departmental Safety Information Book

Section 23

Hazardous Drug Program
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1. **Purpose**

This section of the departmental Safety Information Book is intended to bring Western Washington University into compliance with [Washington Administrative Code (WAC), Part 296-62-500 Hazardous Drugs](https://laws.wa.gov/). The University seeks to protect its employees from avoidable harm at all times and places related to their work duties.

The above WAC is applicable to faculty, staff, and student employees. However, the intent is to protect personnel in health and veterinary care where drugs that may be very toxic are used in treatment settings. The list of drugs of concern is found in the [National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) List of Antineoplastic and Other Hazardous Drugs in Healthcare Settings dated 2012](https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2012-118/fulltext.pdf).

2. **Finding of Negative Impact at Western Washington University**

As of June 2013, only one hazardous chemical is used in a healthcare setting at Western: trichloro acetic acid. This chemical does not meet any of the six toxic drug criteria identified in the NIOSH document, as follows:

- Carcinogenicity,
- Teratogenicity or other developmental toxicity,
- Reproductive toxicity,
- Organ toxicity at low doses,
- Genotoxicity,
- Structure and toxicity profiles of new drugs that mimic existing drugs determined hazardous by the above criteria.

Thus, this section of the WAC is not applicable to Western.

3. **Responsibilities**

Department heads are responsible for ensuring that personnel providing either health care or veterinary care under their purview are trained, provided with personal protective equipment, and follow appropriate procedures to minimize exposures.

4. **Personal Protective Equipment**

Refer to [Section 5 of the Safety Information Book](https://www.washington.edu) for personal protective equipment identified in each department and the list of hazardous tasks and associated protective measures.

5. **Procedures and Training**

Department Heads are required to provide appropriate procedures to protect employees, including those of high-hazard chemicals and to train them in the procedures.