



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Cancer Care program implements Closed-System Drug Transfer device**  
***PhaSeal system reduces environmental contamination and worker exposure***

Following PRHC's strategic direction to provide a healthy and safe environment for staff, patients and visitors, the Cancer Care program has recently implemented PhaSeal – a Closed-System Drug Transfer Device (CSTD) used in preparing, administering and handling waste from hazardous drugs.

“The acquisition of this system marks a significant investment in the health and safety of employees, patients and visitors to the hospital,” said hospital CEO Ken Tremblay. “The PhaSeal device will enhance protection for health professionals who handle potentially hazardous chemotherapy drugs as part of their daily work. PhaSeal will also keep these materials out of the environment, protecting individuals who work in or frequent areas where these drugs are handled.”

The International Society of Oncology Pharmacy Practice (ISOPP) and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) define a CSTD as: “a drug transfer device which mechanically prohibits the transfer of environmental contaminants into the system and the escape of hazardous drug or vapour concentrations outside the system.” NIOSH has recommended the use of CSTDs, as research demonstrates that they reduce contamination on work surfaces and in employee's urine samples.

The PhaSeal CSTD is the only device of its kind to be proven effective in numerous independent studies. Through multiple and unique design features, the drug is mechanically contained and does not escape through spray, drips, spills or vaporization. Airtight pressure equalization captures aerosols and vapours. The patented double membrane in all components provides dry, leak-proof connections, eliminating exposure when connecting and disconnecting from vials, syringes, IV bags and lines. The drug has no contact with the atmosphere.

The device also contains an encapsulated needle, providing a sealed transfer that retracts into a “locked” position when procedures are complete to prevent exposure and contact.

The presence of hazardous drug contamination in the workplace is well-documented in facilities that prepare, administer and dispose of chemotherapy. Nursing and pharmacy employees handle these drugs on a regular basis during work hours and are at risk for the associated adverse effects.

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**For more information:**

Jeff Nayler  
Manager, Oncology Services  
705-743-2121 ext 2059  
[jnaylor@prhc.on.ca](mailto:jnaylor@prhc.on.ca)