



Supporting your pharmacies compliance needs

In December 2024, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) published updates to the [NIOSH List of Hazardous Drugs in Healthcare Settings, 2024 | NIOSH | CDC](#). Cardinal Health is committed to the highest quality of compliance and quality with our distribution processes, and in response to these changes, we are reaffirming **our approach to preparing and shipping hazardous drugs to our customers**.

While the NIOSH changes do not require additional shipping and handling procedures for pharmaceutical distributors, Cardinal Health takes additional measures to better assist our customers with their safety and quality processes for receiving and stocking hazardous medications. **To ensure customer safety, Cardinal Health will ship all products listed on the NIOSH Table 1 and all chemotherapy products together in clearly labeled, separate totes by mid-July.**

No other items will come in with Table 1 or chemotherapy products. *Note: if an item is shipped in a bag inside a tote and needs to be returned, then it must also be returned in a bag.*

No changes will be made to the current shipping and handling procedures for NIOSH table 2 and 3 medications.

Ensure your pharmacy has the right protective equipment when you need it.

A catalog of personal protective equipment (PPE) items, such as gowns, gloves and masks, is available through your ordering platform to support you and your staff in safely receiving, handling, and stocking hazardous medications.

For questions about shipping and handling of NIOSH medications please reference the frequently asked questions below. You can also contact your Cardinal Health sales representative or the Cardinal Health Customer Service Centers toll-free:

- Distribution Center customers: 1.800.926.3161
- Kinray Customer Service: 1.718.767.1234, press 5

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

Q. How will I know that a tote contains NIOSH products?

A. Cardinal Health clearly labels totes with the highest NIOSH hazard level indicated as described below.

Table 1 and all chemotherapy items: For now, we will continue using our current bags labeled CEMO until the existing supply runs out. Once those bags are depleted, we will transition to new bags labeled CEMO/NIOSH1. Other than chemotherapy items, no other items come in with Table 1 items. *Note: if an item is shipped in a bag inside a tote and needs to be returned, then it must also be returned in a bag.*



Tables 2 and 3 medications: These products will continue to ship as they do today and will be labeled with the highest level of risk; for example, the tote label would indicate NIOSH 2 if items are included in that tote which are both tables 2 and 3.

Q. Are NIOSH products placed in totes with other products?

A. NIOSH Table 1 and chemotherapy medications will ship as they do today in separate totes. NIOSH Tables 2 and 3 products may comeingle with non-NIOSH products.

Q. Can I still return NIOSH products?

A. Yes. All NIOSH items in resaleable condition that meet Cardinal Health's returns policy(ies) are eligible for return. Note: any NIOSH Table 1 items that are shipped in a bag inside a tote and need to be returned must also be returned in a bag.

Q. If I receive a damaged NIOSH product how do I return it? What should I do with the tote?

A. In the event of breakage or leaks, contact customer service to request a return and follow your internal process for the disposing and destruction of the affected product(s) and totes.