

In an October 2019 survey taken by Veterinary Cancer Society technicians:

- 71% of respondents say that handling medication safely is a big concern in their practice
- 90% of respondents said they would be more inclined to order chemo tabs knowing they would be dispensed in unit-dose packaging

Unit-Dose Blister Packaging of Chemotherapeutic Tablets

To enhance safety for your staff and clients, Stokes Pharmacy now utilizes blister packaging for all our compounded chemotherapy tablets.

Blister packaging is used to provide a safe and convenient way to dispense or administer prescribed medications. Benefits include:

- **Improved adherence to prescribed therapy.** It is easier to identify if a dose has been taken or missed when medications are blister packed. This ultimately can result in improved clinical outcomes and a decrease in undesirable side effects.
- **Convenience.** Blister packs are easy to transport and store, no bulky pill bottles necessary. When traveling or on-the-go, just grab the exact number of doses you need.
- **Decreased chance of medication errors.** Each individual dose is accurately labeled with the correct drug and strength, as well as lot number and expiration date.

Blister packaging offers many additional benefits when dispensing and/or administering hazardous drugs, such as chemotherapeutic agents, including:

- Preserved integrity of the tablets and improved safety by decreasing the amount of powder generated by tablets coming into contact with each other. In a tablet bottle, tablets are constantly in contact and powder is generated as a result. Reducing this powder makes the product safer to handle and reduces the risk of cross-contamination.
- Decreased chance of spillage, which also reduces the risk of cross-contamination. Dropping one tablet would cause much less contamination than dropping an entire bottle of tablets.
- Decreased exposure to hazardous chemicals by isolating each tablet into a single dosage. No need to fumble around with an entire bottle of hazardous medication; the single dose that you need is conveniently packaged into one blister.
- Reduced amount of personal protective equipment or PPE needed to dispense or administer the product. According to "Table 5. Personal protective equipment and engineering controls for working with hazardous drugs in healthcare settings" within "NIOSH List of Antineoplastic and other Hazardous Drugs in Healthcare Settings, 2016", administration of an intact tablet or capsule from unit-dose packaging does not require double chemotherapy gloves, protective gown, eye/face protection, or respiratory protection.

How to remove tablet from blister pack:

- 1) Locate the position of the tablet inside the packaging
- 2) With a scissors, carefully cut open one of the edges away from the tablet
- 2) Remove the tablet from the packaging wearing gloves
- 3) Use gloves when handling the tablet to administer the dose

