



USP 800 standards will be implemented starting December 2019. What does it mean for your organization and how will you remain compliant?

According to [the CDC](#), about 8 million U.S. healthcare workers are potentially exposed to hazardous drugs, including pharmacy and nursing personnel, physicians, operating room personnel, environmental services workers, workers in research laboratories, veterinary care workers, and shipping and receiving personnel. The [USP General Chapter 800](#) provides requirements and responsibilities of personnel handling hazardous drugs in healthcare settings.

What is considered a hazardous drug and do all organizations have to adopt USP 800 guidelines?

The [National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health \(NIOSH\)](#) considers a drug to be hazardous if “it exhibits one or more of the following characteristics in humans or animals: carcinogenicity, teratogenicity or developmental toxicity, reproductive toxicity, organ toxicity at low doses, genotoxicity, or structure and toxicity profiles of new drugs that mimic existing hazardous drugs.”

While NIOSH identifies which drugs are considered hazardous, USP 800 lays out the precautions and standards for handling these drugs.

Are all organizations that handle hazardous drugs adopting USP 800 guidelines? Is your organization getting ready for USP 800?

USP is a scientific nonprofit organization. The organization itself cannot enforce these standards but rely on different government agencies to adopt and enforce these standards. These standards are thus enforced by different local, state and federal regulatory agencies around the world.

California, for example, is the first state to require full compliance in adopting USP 800 standards. When these standards come into effect, many states will adopt all or some of these requirements or responsibilities.

What is required to comply with USP 800 guidelines?

A [Modernhealthcare.com](#) article about [USP 800](#) breaks down the chapter into sections to assist in understanding how the organization is expected to comply. Sections include personnel and facility requirements, environmental quality and control, personal protective equipment, compounding, developing a hazard communication program and medical surveillance. A unique requirement for USP 800, for example, is the implementation of a compounding supervisor role trained in the handling of hazardous drugs.

How does Immuware help?

Through the use of intelligent questionnaires and surveys, employee portal and automated workflow rules, Immuware helps identify your organization's at-risk personnel on an ongoing basis. Immuware automatically reminds your personnel to submit exposure information and monitors actions taken to protect employees at predetermined time intervals specified by *your* organization.

Immuware assists in evaluating the efficacy of your programs for the handling of hazardous drugs and hazardous drug exposures.

The award-winning [Immuware](#) employee and occupational health software platform may be just the solution to fast track your USP 800 initiative!

Immuware is designed to record and track medical surveillance, immunizations, screenings, exposures, injuries, illnesses, and much more, making it the perfect tool to help your organization stay ahead of the USP 800 compliance requirements.

Our Immuware™ USP 800 Questionnaire can survey your workforce to identify:

- History of exposures,
- At risk activities,
- Medical history,
- When USP 800 training is required or completed,
- If proper PPE procedures are followed, and more.

Personnel's responses to questions can automatically triage to Occupational Health Clinicians for further review and evaluation.

Based on assigned risk categories, automated notifications may be triggered. Non-responders to required actions receive automatic reminders until compliance requirements have been met.

Visit [Immuware.com](#) for more information and to set up a free demonstration.

[Request a Demo](#)

Immuware is putting the 'health' back into employee health.