

QUESTION: Which antineoplastic (anticancer) drugs commonly used today would be considered hazardous waste by RCRA?

ANSWER: The National Institutes of Health (NIH) recently looked at the 39 drugs most commonly used (both on patients and experimentally in laboratories) and determined that the following drugs are listed as hazardous wastes in 40 CFR 261.33 (f):

U058 Cyclophosphamide (also known as Cytosin),  
U059 Daunomycin,  
U150 Melphalan,  
U010 Mytomycin C, and  
U206 Streptozotocin.

In addition, NIH says that 14 other drugs would meet the toxicity criteria (40CFR 261.11) for being on the commercial chemical products lists (40CFR 261.33 (f)). Currently, these chemicals need not be handled as hazardous wastes unless they exhibit one or more of the characteristics identified in 40CFR 261 Subpart C.

SOURCE: Claire Welty

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