Chemotherapeutic and cytotoxic drugs are routinely monitored within the manufacturing environment to assess employee exposure. In 2004, NIOSH published a hazardous drug alert with a general approach to handling for healthcare workers. The USP Chapter <797> standard provides handling requirements and applies to all sterile compounding. It is designed to provide for a safe, sterile dose for the patient regardless of where the dose is prepared. To that end, the standard states that surface sampling should be incorporated into the quality program to measure the effectiveness of the cleaning and disinfection process. The USP Chapter <797> standard has identified our drugs as exposure indicating markers: Cyclophosphamide, Fluorouracil, Ifosfamide, and Methotrexate.

What should I know about monitoring?

- USP Chapter <797> standard recommends environmental sampling of work areas for surface contamination.
- Sampling should be performed at least every 6 months or more frequently as needed to protect the worker.
- Work areas include counter tops, adjacent surfaces (including the floor), and patient administration areas.

Since acceptable quantities of surface contamination have not been established for many chemotherapy / cytotoxic compounds, Bureau Veritas methods seek to achieve the lowest detection limits possible. Ask for a copy of our sampling guide for a complete list of Bureau Veritas capabilities.

Contact Bureau Veritas to discuss your compounding process at 800.806.5887 or by email at matthew.meiners@us.bureauveritas.com.

1 "Hazardous Drugs as CSPs." USP <797> Guidebook to Pharmaceutical Compounding - Sterile Preparations (2008): 37-38