



Pharmaceutical Management Branch/Cancer Therapy Evaluation Program/Division of Cancer Treatment and Diagnosis/National Cancer Institute
6130 Executive Blvd * Suite 7149 * Rockville, Maryland 20852
Phone: (301) 496-5725 * Order fax: (301) 480-4612 * Other fax: (301) 402-0429 * E-mail: pmbafterhours@mail.nih.gov

FAQ: Injectable agents in vials (sharing and overfill)

Question: *Two patients receive the same agent on the same open label NCI study at the same institution. Can we share vials?*

If the patients are being treated on the same day, this is acceptable. Document this on the DARF by noting patient initials/number used 1 vial and patient initials/number used 0 vials. Tie the lines together with a "]". Document each of the patients' actual doses on the DARF.

Note: This is not how you document trastuzumab, our only multi-dose vial. Trastuzumab is documented by mg (often with confusing results).

Question: *Our patient's dose of godzillaplatin is 104 mg, and the NCI-supplied vials contain 100 mg in 5 mL, but they have ample overfill. If we can draw 5.2 mL from the vial, can we use it instead of opening another vial?*

You bet, especially if the vial was filled by the manufacturer. If the product is lyophilized, however, please make sure that you reconstituted it exactly as directed, and the overfill isn't the result of an error. (Please note that you might want to suggest to your physicians that the difference between 104 mg and 100 mg is very small, and they can round to 100 mg without a problem in most cases.)

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Please contact PMB at (301) 496-5725 if you have questions.*