

Press release

New Fresenius Kabi oncology compounding machine now available

University Hospital Heidelberg chooses PharmaHelp

Bad Homburg, January 2013 – With the introduction of the new PharmaHelp oncology compounding machine, Fresenius Kabi offers a safe and cost effective alternative to manual oncology compounding. This introduction supplements Fresenius Kabi’s broad product portfolio for oncology and compounding. The semi-automatic PharmaHelp is suitable for compounding pharmacies with at least 20,000 oncology units per year. The machine increases productivity and optimises product quality. PharmaHelp is integrated in a standard safety workbench class 2 which allows quick installation. The easy use concept enables a compounding pharmacy to utilize the system for manufacturing following a short installation time.

The pharmacy of the University Hospital Heidelberg is the first external user of the PharmaHelp workbench system. “We expect initially a relief for our technicians, especially regarding the physical burden. In addition, we hope for further advantages by optimal integration in our processes” highlights Dr. Torsten Hoppe-Tichy, Head of the hospital pharmacy and President of the German association of Hospital Pharmacists (ADKA).

Oncology therapy requires individual and exact drug dosing. This is a big challenge for the respective compounding pharmacy which requires aseptic and precise operations by the technicians. During these activities the technicians are potentially exposed to cytotoxic materials. The automation of the critical step during possible exposure increases safety for technicians significantly. This is supported by the pharmacy of the University Hospital which supplies patients of the National Center for Tumour Diseases (NCT) in Heidelberg. The Hospital is well known beyond country borders with interdisciplinary cancer therapy closely connected to the German Cancer Research institute (DKFZ) which has been successful in the research of new cancer therapies for many years.

University hospital focuses on patient safety and optimized processes.

The compact compounding machine doses very precisely. “The gravimetric manufacturing allows detailed documentation of used materials and doses” underlines Hoppe-Tichy. “Automation with PharmaHelp allows achievement of two targets at the same time: The safety of medication for our cancer patients is further optimized and the high physical load on our technicians due to conventional manual compounding is reduced” adds the Chief Pharmacist. The pharmacy project leader Dr. Tilman Schöning agrees “We hope long term to relief highly qualified personnel to perform more complex manufacturing processes by optimal integration of PharmaHelp in our processes for routine supply”.

Productive, reliable, economic

Correct manufacturing is achieved by volumetric dosing using syringe pump technology and independent weighing control. "Filling accuracy, precision, sterility, contamination level and product integrity – all parameters were checked successfully against GMP requirements in Fresenius Kabi compounding centres" explains Dr. Thomas Schreiner, Director Technologies and Quality Management, Compounding at Fresenius Kabi. He adds "This was confirmed by a successful GMP audit performed by local GMP authorities". Other benefits include the release of skilled Personnel for other activities and the absence of operators and production peaks can be compensated for by using PharmaHelp. The automation can be delivered quickly and is cost effective.

Fresenius Kabi support for oncology patients

The Bad Homburg Company offers a wide product portfolio including enteral and parenteral nutrition, carrier solutions, and medical devices for use in compounding and oncology drugs. This competence is strengthened by the new PharmaHelp oncology compounder; this underlines Fresenius Kabi as a competent partner in the delivery of health care.

Information about PharmaHelp:

Additional information about PharmaHelp can also be found on the website of Medical Dispensing Systems (MDS): www.medicaldispensing.nl. The company belongs to Fresenius Kabi since 2011.

For more information about PharmaHelp and other Oncology products and Devices at Fresenius Kabi contact:

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Information about Fresenius Kabi

Fresenius Kabi is focused on the therapy and care of critically and chronically ill patients inside and outside the hospital. Its portfolio comprises a wide range of IV drugs, infusion therapies, clinical nutrition products as well as the related medical devices. With a corporate philosophy of "Caring for Life", the company's goal is to improve the patient's quality of life. Fresenius Kabi AG is a 100% subsidiary of the health care group Fresenius SE & Co. KGaA.

For more information visit the company's website at www.fresenius-kabi.com.