Vial Protect Pack
Series Overview
Hazardous pharmaceutical products such as anti-cancer and chemotherapy drugs (antineoplastic/cytotoxic) are known to be very toxic to the human body. Therefore, this becomes a serious problem and offers a high potential degree of risk of contamination and exposure when these drugs are handled by healthcare professionals. It also can be a problem during the packaging and shipping of such toxic drugs, as well as the disposal of the used products.

The Vial Protect Pack Series (VPP) has been developed to offer the highest level of safety packaging for these types of hazardous pharmaceutical products. The concept has been accepted positively as a preventative and safety measure in Japan and now Iwata Label is bringing this solution to the European market. Incorporating Iwata Label’s VPP Series Solutions in your labeling and packaging process, you can ensure safety from the laboratory through the disposal process.
The **VPP Series** is composed of a glass vial, plastic protector and Shrink tack label. After combining the vial and plastic protector, the Shrink Tack label, which has pressure sensitive adhesive on the back of heat shrinkable PET film, wound around the vial. Then, it is heated and the shrink wrap is applied. Due to the pressure sensitive adhesive on back, it is only necessary to apply focused heat to the neck, shoulder and bottom of the vial. Thus reducing the negative influence to the contents, due to heat exposure.

Although the **VPP Series** utilizes the same principals, there are different two types of plastic protectors. Both are designed to allow flexibility for the client’s needs. The first (**VPP I**) utilizes a plastic plate, which is attached to the bottom of the vial. The second (**VPP II**), utilizes a plastic cup, which the vial is inserted into. Both the **VPP I** and **VPP II** are then combined with the Shrink Tack label to create the ultimate protection against vial breakage and contamination.

By combining the vial and plastic protector with the Shrink tack label, the plastic protector gives a cushion effect and protects the vial from the impact of being dropped. With the **VPP I**, the bottom of the vial is mainly protected with the plastic plate. With the **VPP II**, not only the bottom but also the sides of the vial are protected with the plastic cup.

By covering the entire vial with the Shrink Tack label, medical staff avoid direct contact with the surface of the vial. In the event of a vial being dropped and breakage occurring, the scattering of glass and content also does not occur. The contents are contained inside of the Shrink Tack label and plastic protector. The **VPP I** and **VPP II** can also protect from expensive production line closures and cleanup due to breakage. Therefore, from packaging, to shipping, to dispensing, to disposal, hazardous and costly accidents are minimized if not totally eliminated. Thus creating a huge potential for eliminating, expensive line stoppages, cleanup and decontamination of facilities, and most importantly, the protection of all staff, medical and other, whom handle these products on a daily basis.
Another area of consideration is secondary packaging. Expensive and highly toxic oncology drugs require extra caution when handling them and also require extra packaging to protect against breakage. Most common is cardboard dividers and spacers that keep the vials from coming in contact with one another. Plastic vial beds and Styrofoam boxes are also used and cost a premium. However, these methods are not needed when using the VPP II solution.

The plastic cup of the VPP II solution allows vials to be packaged together, right next to each other. The small space between the vial and the cup acts as a shock absorber and keeps the glass from banging against each other and breaking. The bottom plate of the cup, as well as with the VPP I, keeps the base of the vial safe and protects against up and down motions, such as bumpy roads and dropping of the vial(s).

Furthermore, when vials are able to be packaged closer together, this will eliminate not only secondary packaging material costs, but also the overall footprint of the vial’s secondary packaging. By reducing the overall footprint, each shipping container, large or small, can hold more cargo and thus reduce shipping expenses.

So, as you can see, the VPP II solution is not only for highly toxic and highly expensive drugs, but also by using the VPP II solution, one can also potentially cut costs on any drug packaged in fragile glass vials.