



A SMARTER APPROACH TO WEED MANAGEMENT IN HEALTHCARE

Reducing Glyphosate Exposure at Healthcare Facilities

Why This Matters

Healthcare facilities work to reduce preventable risks wherever patients, visitors, and staff receive care, including outdoor spaces. Entrances, sidewalks, and landscaped areas should reflect the same commitment to health and safety as the care provided indoors.



Current Research

- Studies continue to examine potential links between glyphosate (the active ingredient in RoundUp) exposure and cancer, neurological disease, reproductive effects, and changes to the gut microbiome.
- Environmental research documents impacts on pollinators, biodiversity, and non-target organisms.

Scientific organizations continue to evaluate glyphosate differently. The International Agency for Research on Cancer classifies glyphosate as "probably carcinogenic," while the U.S. EPA currently states it is unlikely to pose a cancer risk when used according to label directions.

Regardless of the debate, **healthcare facilities can reduce unnecessary pesticide exposure through prevention-focused grounds management.**

Start the Conversation

Ask your director of facility services or landscape contractor.

Review Current Practices

- Where and why is glyphosate currently being used?
- Are applications based on safety needs or routine maintenance?

Prioritize Prevention

- Can mulch, mowing, edging, or manual removal replace the use of herbicides?
- Are herbicides reserved for situations where nonchemical methods are ineffective?

Build a Healthier Policy

- Does our landscape contract prioritize integrated pest management?
- Are pesticide applications documented and periodically reviewed?

Whether your facility is reviewing glyphosate or other pesticides, prioritized integrated pest management provides a practical framework for inspecting, identifying, monitoring, selecting a least toxic method of control, and evaluating the results.

