

Chemotherapy Spill Instructions

Information for patients receiving chemotherapy at home

Chemotherapy medicines are powerful and can be harmful to others in your household. Although leaks and spills are rare, it's important to know what to do if one happens.

Signs of a chemotherapy leak or spill

Check for wetness in any of the following areas:

- Around your catheter or port site
- On or around the pump that contains your chemotherapy medicine
- On your clothing
- On any surfaces where you or your pump have been.

If chemotherapy leaks on your skin or clothing

1. Wash your skin immediately with plenty of water and mild soap. Rinse thoroughly.
2. If chemotherapy splashes into your eyes, nose, or mouth, rinse the area with water for at least 15 minutes.
3. If chemotherapy or body fluids get on clothing or bedding:
 - Use the spill kit and wear disposable gloves. Use each pair only once. Remove gloves by turning them inside out and place them in a sealable bag before disposing of them in the bin. Wash your hands thoroughly afterwards.
 - Wash the affected laundry as soon as possible. If you need to wait, store it in a sealable plastic bag.
 - Wash the laundry separately, twice, using regular detergent and warm or hot water.
4. Contact the Cancer Treatment Helpline immediately on 0800 917 7711 as you will need a medical review.

Your home spill kit includes:

Personal Protective Equipment (for one person):

- 1 Home Cytotoxic Kit Microbin
- 1 FFP3 face mask
- 2 pairs of nitrile powder-free gloves
- 1 eye shield
- 1 plastic apron
- 1 pair of overshoes
- 1 barcode label with expiry date
- 1 large security sticker.

Cleaning equipment:

- 1 absorbent grey t-pad
- 6 white lint-free wipes
- 3 x 20ml sterile sodium chloride 0.9% pods

Also provided by the hospital:

- 2 orange waste bags

Cleaning up a spill

1. Remove all items from the Cytotoxic Drug Spill Kit. Place one orange waste bag inside the other to create a double layer.
2. Put on the plastic apron, eye shield, face mask (FFP2 or higher), and both pairs of gloves. If the spill is on the floor, also wear the overshoes.
3. Use the grey absorbent pad to soak up the spill, then place it in the orange waste bags.
4. Open one sodium chloride pod and dampen a lint-free wipe.
5. Wipe the area starting from the outer edge, moving inwards in a circular motion. Discard the used wipe into the orange waste bags.
6. Dry the area with a clean lint-free wipe.
7. Repeat steps 4–6 two more times.

Disposal instructions

8. Remove and discard the following items into the orange waste bags, in this order:
 - Overshoes
 - Outer pair of gloves (keep the inner pair on)
 - Apron
 - Face mask
 - Eye shield.
9. Place the empty Cytotoxic Drug Spill Kit container into the orange waste bags.
10. Remove the remaining gloves and place them in the waste bags.
11. Tie the orange waste bags securely.
12. Return the bags to the hospital for safe disposal.

Important

You must contact the Cancer Treatment Helpline on 0800 917 7711 after any chemotherapy spill.