Safety at Home If You Have a Chemotherapy Spill

Your chemotherapy medication can spill if you have a leak from your tubing or if the container is disconnected or is punctured. Chemotherapy medications must be handled safely to protect you and others around you.

The “Home Health Chemo Spill Kit”

You have been given a Home Health Chemo Spill Kit. This Kit will help you or others around you clean up any spill or leak of your chemotherapy medication.

The Kit has:

- 1 splash-resistant disposable gown
- 2 pairs of disposable gloves (latex-free)
- 1 pair of splash-resistant goggles
- 1 “chemo bio-wipe” bag
- 1 “chemo waste” bag

What you need to do to protect you and others around you

- Any material (other than your clothes, sheets, upholstery or carpet) that comes in contact with any of your chemotherapy medications must be put in the “chemo waste” bag that was given to you in your Home Health Chemo Spill Kit. You will need to take this bag and what you have put into it back to the Cancer Centre chemotherapy clinic during regular hours (Monday to Friday from 7:30am to 5:30pm). After these hours or on holidays, you will need to take it to the emergency department at Lakeridge Health Oshawa. Do not put this bag into your regular garbage.

- If your clothes or sheets become wet with any of your chemotherapy medications you will need to wash them. Wash the item(s) 2 separate times in soap and hot water. Use bleach and wash in a washing machine when possible. Do not wash them with other laundry. If your clothes or sheets become dripping wet with your chemotherapy medication, put them in the “chemo waste” bag. You will need to take this bag with your clothes or sheets in it back to the hospital (see instructions above). Do not put this bag in your regular garbage.

- If your carpet or floor becomes wet with any of your chemotherapy medication or any of your body fluids you will need to wash it with soap and hot water. Follow steps #2-7 on the back of this page.

- Mattress pads with plastic on the back will protect your mattress from becoming wet with any spilled chemotherapy medication or your body fluids (urine, sweat, vomit, stool, semen or vaginal fluid).

- If any chemotherapy medication splashes into your eyes, wash them out with water for 15 minutes. You will need to be seen by a doctor right away. Go to the emergency department at the hospital closest to your home. Take this handout with you and show it to the emergency doctor or nurse.
What you or others around you will need to do if your chemotherapy medication starts to leak from your tubing:

1. Clamp off the central line tubing to stop the chemotherapy fluid from flowing.
2. Take the contents of your Home Health Chemo Spill Kit out of the sealed bag.
3. Put on the gown, 2 pairs of gloves, mask and eye goggles.
4. Use the “bio-wipe bag” found in the spill kit to absorb and wipe up the spill. Follow the directions on the outside of the “bio-wipe” bag.
5. Clean the area of the spill with soap and hot water using disposable paper towels.
6. Carefully put the “bio-wipe” bag, gloves, gown, mask and eye goggles and the paper towels you used into the “chemo waste” bag. Tie the bag closed.
7. Take the “chemo waste” bag back to the Cancer Centre chemotherapy clinic during regular hours (Monday to Friday from 7:30am to 5:30pm). After these hours or on holidays, you will need to take this bag to the emergency department at Lakeridge Health Oshawa. You will also need to be seen by a nurse and doctor to have your infuser bottle disconnected and your central line looked at.

If you have questions about any of this information, please talk with your oncologist or nurse.

Last Revised: February 2015