

# PROCEDURE

ORIGINAL DATE: 12/93  
REVISION DATE: 03/15

## Home Health Foundation, Inc.

**SUBJECT: CYTOTOXIC SPILLS**

**PURPOSE:** To contain, neutralize and clean cytotoxic spills with a minimum of exposure to agency personnel, family and patient.

### **Considerations**

1. All patients receiving chemotherapy will have a chemotherapy spill kit in their home (or place of infusion) at all times. This kit will be provided by the IV vendor who has supplied the chemotherapy or oncology clinic if we are disconnecting the chemotherapy infusion.
2. All chemotherapy trained RNs will be responsible for containing, neutralizing, and cleaning up cytotoxic spills. The RN will instruct patient and/or caregiver during initial teaching on how to appropriately respond in the event of a cytotoxic spill.
3. All chemotherapy trained nurses will review this policy annually.
4. Pregnant staff shall not be required to clean a cytotoxic spill.

### **Equipment**

Chemotherapy Spill Kit Containing:

- 1 pair splash-proof goggles
- 1 plastic moisture-resistant gown
- 2 pairs heavy latex gloves-at least 15mm thick.  
Vinyl gloves are **not** recommended as they are not impervious to chemotherapy.
- 1 dust/mist respirator mask-NIOSH approved
- 3 12x12 absorbent towels
- 1 scoop and brush (to collect glass fragments)
- 2 large chemo waste disposal bags
- 2 spill control pillows
- 6 "Chemo Hazard" labels
- 1 "Chemo Spill" caution sign

Disposable Chux Pads

Bleach in a 1:10 Dilution with Water, or Detergent Solution

Incident Report Form

<p><b>Procedure</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Put on gloves, goggles, gown and mask. Place “Chemo Spill” caution sign at site of spill.</li> <li>2. First pair of gloves goes under gown sleeves, 2<sup>nd</sup> pair over.</li> </ol> <p>⇒ <b>For a <u>WET</u> Spill</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Place spill control pillows in a “V” position around the perimeter of the spill.</li> <li>4. Gently lay dry absorbent towels over spill to soak up the drug. Use disposable chux pads also if spill is very large volume.</li> <li>5. Place each saturated towel and spill control pillows in chemo waste disposal bags.</li> <li>6. When the spill is all absorbed, wash contaminated area with 1:10 bleach solution using absorbent chux pads. If bleach is not available, use detergent solution and water. Place used chux in chemo waste disposal bags.</li> <li>7. Wash contaminated area twice more with soap and water using chux pads. Place used chux in chemo waste disposal bags.</li> <li>8. Remove gloves, goggles, gown and mask, and place in chemo waste disposal bags.</li> <li>9. Secure chemo waste disposal bags and label with “Chemo Hazard” labels.</li> <li>10. Wash hands.</li> <li>11. Notify IV vendor of the chemo spill and the need to pick up chemo waste for proper disposal.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Key Points</b></p> <p>To prevent accidental exposure to cytotoxic materials.</p> <p>To prevent cytotoxic materials from spreading to a larger area.</p> <p>To neutralize cytotoxic spill.</p>
---	---

**NOTE:** If broken glass is involved in the spill, use the scoop and brush to clean up glass and place it into the biohazardous waste container. Dispose of box in chemo waste disposal bags with the other waste.

<p>⇒ <b>For a <u>DRY</u> Spill</b></p> <p><b>Procedure</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dampen absorbent pads with water and gently overlay the powder. Place used pads in chemo waste disposal bags.</li> <li>2. Proceed with steps 3-9 for Wet Spill.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Key Points</b></p> <p>To prevent spread of chemo powder into the air.</p>
---	---

**NOTES**

- 1) Contact IV pharmacists immediately if spill occurs with Nitrogen Mustard which must be neutralized with Sodium Thiosulfate.
- 2) Fill out agency Incident/Unusual Occurrence Form describing the spill. Forward the form to appropriate designee.

---

*Reference:* Cancer Chemotherapy Guidelines and Recommendations for Practice (1999).  
Pittsburgh: Oncology Nursing Press, Inc.

Approved Policy Committee: 03/15