NHS
Royal Devon
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Important instructions to deal with a spillage of anti-cancer medicines

Other formats

If you need this leaflet in another format such as Braille, large print, high contrast, British Sign Language or translated into another language, contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service:

- 01392 402093 (for Mid Devon, East Devon and Exeter services)
- 01271 314090 (for North Devon services)
- rduh.pals@nhs.net

Introduction

This booklet is for the following people:

- Patients who are self-administering anti-cancer therapies at home or who have a nominated person(s) administering anti-cancer therapies to them at home (e.g. Bortezomib or Cytarabine)
- Patients receiving continuous ambulatory infusions of anti-cancer therapy via a device at home (e.g. Fluorouracil/ 5FU or Blinatumomab via CADD pump).

Anti-Cancer therapies such as chemotherapy, targeted therapies and immunotherapies must be kept in a safe place according to storage instructions on the product label.

These medicines have the potential to damage healthy cells as well as cancer cells which is why they come with side effects. A spillage could expose others in the home to the toxic effects of the medicine. Ensure all medicines, administration equipment and waste are stored out of reach of children and pets. People who are pregnant or breastfeeding should not handle the anti-cancer medicines or the waste. Always wash your hands thoroughly after handling the medicine or waste.

A spill of anti-cancer medications needs to be cleaned up safely and effectively, this booklet outlines what to do.

Contents of spillage kit

- Instructions
- Two pairs of blue gloves

- one face mask
- One purple waste bag (two purple waste bags for CADD pump only)
- One plastic apron
- Four soft cloths

What to do if you have a spillage

Move everyone away from the spillage area and keep them out of the area, especially pregnant women and children.

If you have an ambulatory pump, clamp the PICC/PORT/Hickman line and the ambulatory pump line.

If you need help cleaning the spillage, that person must be an adult and not pregnant. The spillage should be cleaned as quickly as possible to avoid exposure.

Using the spillage kit

Open your spillage kit away from the spill area.

Do not touch the spill/contaminated area until you have put on the protective equipment supplied. Put on:

- plastic apron, which should be tied around the waist
- face mask, ensuring the metal bit is pinched over the bridge of the nose
- both pairs of blue gloves.

Spillage location

Skin

- If the treatment has spilt onto yours or someone else's skin, hold the affected area under cool, running water **immediately** for 10 minutes.
- Do not scrub the skin.
- Contact your day treatment unit for further advice.

Eyes

- If your treatment splashes into one or both of your eyes, rinse under continuous running cool water **immediately** for 10 minutes.
- Do not rub the affected eye/eyes.
- Contact your day treatment unit for further advice.

Clothing

- It is best to wear inexpensive loose clothing when self-administering your treatment.
- If you spill the treatment onto your clothing put on the face mask and the two pairs of gloves before removing the clothing.
    - **A few drops:** if you have spilt a few drops onto your clothing, your clothing should be removed carefully and washed twice with no other clothing. It must be washed on the hottest setting on your washing machine.
    - **Large amount of fluid:** if a large amount of fluid has spilt onto your clothing, remove clothing carefully while wearing the two pairs of gloves and face mask. Put them into the purple waste bag from your spill kit.
- If the spill has seeped through the clothing onto your skin, please follow the instructions for skin spillage.
- Contact your day treatment unit for further advice.

Carpet

- You should administer your treatment somewhere without carpet on a non-porous surface and have a dedicated plastic tray. If however, your treatment is spilt onto a carpet area, put on your:
    - face mask
    - both pair of gloves
    - plastic apron.
- Place a cloth on the spill area to mop up any treatment and prevent the treatment from spreading, then place this straight into the purple waste bag.
- Clean the area with cool water and the soft cloths provided. Once the area has fully dried, vacuum the area. Do not use a steam cleaner on the area.
- Place all material used for cleaning into the purple waste bag.
- Contact your day treatment unit for further advice.

Hard surfaces

- It is best to prepare and administer your treatment in a room with a non-porous hard floor, for example a kitchen. If your treatment spills onto a hard surface area, including your dedicated tray put on your:
    - face mask
    - both pair of gloves
    - plastic apron.

- Place a cloth over the spill to mop up the treatment and prevent the treatment from spreading. Put the cloth in the purple waste bag.
- Using cool water only and starting from the outside of the spill area working in, clean the area at least three times using one soft cloth at a time. Discard each cloth after one use into the purple waste bag. Ensure all the spill has been cleaned before allowing other people into the room. Open windows and doors to allow the room to air.
- Contact your day treatment unit for further advice.
- Ideally you should use a waterproof mattress protector while you have your fluorouracil or CADD pump attached.

Spillage on a mattress

- If you notice your mattress is wet, put on:
    - face mask
    - both pair of gloves
    - plastic apron.
- Examine your pump bag, if this is wet place the pump still within the bag into the purple waste bag. If the bag is dry, check for obvious signs of leaking from you PICC/ PORT/Hickmann. If wet clamp the line and contact your day treatment unit urgently.
- Using a soft cloth, blot the area of the spill. Do not rub. Place the cloth into the purple waste bag.
- Fold the mattress protector in on itself and wash on the hottest setting on its own in your washing machine. Do not use washing powder/liquid/tabs. Wash this again on the hottest wash. Allow to fully air dry before reusing.
- If you wish for the protector to be discarded fold it in on itself and place into the purple waste bag.
- If you do not have a waterproof mattress protector, blot the area with a dry cloth, soaking up as much of the spill as possible. Open the windows in the room to air thoroughly.
- **Contact your day treatment unit urgently.**

CADD pump spillage

If you notice any leaking from your CADD pump infusion or if your backpack is wet and you are unsure if there has been any leakage, place the entire CADD backpack into one of the purple waste bags. Place this purple bag with the CADD pump into the second purple bag.

Contact your day treatment unit urgently.

Self-administration spillage

If you spill any of your treatment, you need to contact your local service (Cherrybrook, Yarty, Seamoor) to discuss a replacement of your treatment. See contact numbers at the end of this booklet.

Removing your protective equipment

After you have finished cleaning the spill:

- remove the top pair of gloves only, leaving the clean gloves underneath on. Place the removed pair into the purple waste bag.
- remove your face mask and place it in the purple waste bag.
- remove your apron by breaking the neck and waist and carefully roll the apron in on itself. Place it into the purple waste bag.
- remove your last pair of gloves and place it in the purple bag. Do not touch the inside and contents of the bag.
- tie the bag, being very careful not to squeeze any air from the bag.
- Contact your day treatment unit for further advice.

Do not put the purple bag into general waste.

Please return it to your local service for incineration, where a new spill kit will be issued.

Contact details

Barnstaple

Seamoor unit: 01271 311579
Open Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm

Acute Oncology Service: 01271 334478
Open Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm
Saturday and Sunday, 8am to 12pm

Out of Hours: 01271 322577 (explain you are a cancer patient receiving treatment.)

Exeter

Patient advice line (non-urgent): 01392 402876
Open Monday to Friday, 8am - 5pm

Urgent advice line: 07825 401059 open 24 hours)

Yarty ward: 01392 402815 (open 24 hours)

Trials team: 01392 402171 or 402871
Open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm

Your notes

PALS

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) ensures that the NHS listens to patients, relatives, carers and friends, answers questions and resolves concerns as quickly as possible. If you have a query or concern, please contact PALS:

- 01392 402093 (for Mid Devon, East Devon and Exeter services)
- 01271 314090 (for North Devon services)
- rduh.pals@nhs.net

Have your say

Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust aims to provide high quality services. However, please tell us when something could be improved. If you have a comment or compliment about a service or treatment, please raise your comments with a member of staff or the PALS team in the first instance.

You can also share your feedback on the Care Opinion website at www.careopinion.org.uk or freephone 0800 122 3135.

Scan the QR code to visit the Care Opinion website →

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