

HAZARDOUS MEDICATION PRECAUTIONS

Proper precautions when using hazardous medications at home is important to your safety. Please call 1-800-755-4704 if you have any questions or concerns at all while receiving this type of medication. We are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. In the event of an emergency, always call 911.

What are Hazardous medications?

- These are medications that can affect cell growth or the immune system.

Why do my caregivers need to take special precautions?

- These drugs may be important to your treatment but may cause harm to individuals who do not need them.
- Your body wastes and fluids (including urine, stool, vomit, blood, sweat, semen and vaginal fluids) may also contain some of the drug.
- Your loved ones should follow special precautions for their protection when handling hazardous drugs, body wastes and fluids while you are on treatment and for 48 hours after you have finished treatment.

What should caregivers do to protect themselves?

- The medication should only be handled by the person taking it or the caregiver, if possible.
- Wash your hands before and after handling this medication.
- Wear chemotherapy rated gloves when administering the medications, washing items that are soiled and when disposing of body fluids.
- Wash your hands before putting on the gloves and after removing them.
- Dispose of all needles, syringes and IV equipment in the Sharps container provided.
- Pregnant women, children and pets should never touch the drug, body wastes and fluids or contaminated items.



- If any medication spills, keep others away and clean up the spill right away using the provided spill kit.
- If the spill is on clothing, remove the clothes immediately. Wash the items in the washer with warm water and detergent for 2 cycles.
- If the spill is on a piece of furniture, clean up the spill per directions in the spill kit, then scrub the area with soap and water while wearing gloves.
- If medication gets on the skin, wash and rinse the area using soap and a large amount of water. Call your doctor or nurse if redness or irritation develops.
- While the patient is getting the medication and for 48 hours after, wear gloves when touching body wastes and fluids or contaminated items, such as linens, bedpans or urinals, and items they are throwing away.
- After the patient uses the toilet, always close the lid and flush 2 times.
- Wash reusable containers, such as a urinal or bedpan, with liquid soap or dish detergent and warm water and rinse well. Be careful not to splash yourself or others.
- Always double bag with two plastic bags any contaminated items you are throwing away, such as diapers, ostomy bags, absorbent pads and gloves.