How to Manage a Chemotherapy Spill or Leak at Home

For people that have chemotherapy using a Continuous Ambulatory Drug Delivery (CADD) pump

Complex Malignant Hematology (CMH) Program

This booklet will give you information about:

- · what a chemotherapy spill or leak is
- what to do if your chemotherapy spills or leaks at home
- when to contact your health-care team
- how to contact your health-care team



How to call your health-care team

If you have a chemotherapy spill or leak at home or have any questions or concerns, please call:

- Complex Malignant Hematology Outpatient Unit (C6-06) at 416-480-5000 ext. 4312 (Monday to Saturday, 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.). Ask to speak to the team lead or nurse practitioner.
- Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre at 416-480-6100 ext. 4244 (outside of these hours and on Sundays and statutory holidays). Ask to speak to the hematology doctor on-call.
 - If you cannot reach the hematology doctor on-call, call 416-480-6100 ext. 7885. Ask to speak to the team lead.



When you call, let them know you are a patient of C6-06 and have a chemotherapy pump. Please give the information below:

Your Name:
Date of Birth:
Hospital Identification Number:
Your Chemotherapy Treatment:
If you cannot reach your health-care team, go to

What is a chemotherapy spill or leak?

Your chemotherapy pump may spill or leak when you are at home. Chemotherapy spills and leaks are rare.

You will know if your chemotherapy has spilled or leaked if:

- the area around your central line is wet when you touch it
- the chemotherapy pump or the pouch feels wet
- your clothes or sheets near the chemotherapy pump are wet

If your pump is beeping, first check to see if the tubing is twisted or bent.

If the pump continues to beep, the area feels wet or the line is loose or no longer connected, it could be a sign of a chemotherapy spill or leak. Contact your health-care team right away.

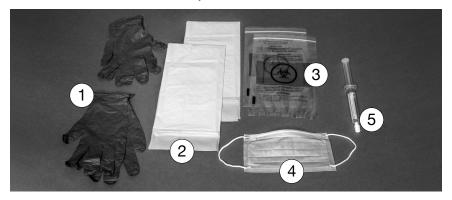


What should I do if my chemotherapy spills or leaks at home?

We want you to be ready to manage a spill or leak if it happens at home. Your nursing team will give you a kit to help you manage a chemotherapy spill or leak. The kit has most of the supplies you need.

You will get:

- 1. 2 pairs of gloves (4 in total)
- 2. 2 absorbent blue pads
- 3. 2 BIOHAZARD bags
- 4. 1 mask
- 5. 1 white saline flush cap



These items are not in your spill kit. Please make sure you have these items at home:



- strong tape (such as duct tape)
- laundry soap (detergent)

- paper towel
- 2 garbage or plastic bags that you can close (tie a knot)

Please follow the steps below if you have a chemotherapy spill or leak at home.

- 1. Contact your health-care team:
 - Call your health-care team right away. Let them know that your chemotherapy has spilled or leaked. Your health-care team will help you follow these steps to manage the spill or leak.
 - Complex Malignant Hematology Outpatient Unit (C6-06) at 416-480-5000 ext. 4312 (Monday to Saturday, 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.). Ask to speak to the team lead or nurse practitioner.
 - Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre at 416-480-6100 ext. 4244 (outside of these hours and on Sundays and statutory holidays). Ask to speak to the hematology doctor on-call.



 If you cannot reach the hematology doctor on-call, call 416-480-6100 ext. 7885. Ask to speak to the team lead.

If you cannot reach your health-care team, go to your nearest emergency room.

2. Get your work area and supplies ready:

- Safely clear the area of other people (including children) and pets.
- Wash your hands with warm water and soap.
 Dry your hands with a clean paper towel.
- Open the kit given to you by your health-care team.
- ☐ Put 2 gloves on each hand.



Put the mask on your face. Make sure the mask covers your nose and mouth.



3. Turn the pump off:

☐ Press the stop/start button on the pump.





☐ Close all of the IV (intravenous) clamps.





☐ If the tubing is disconnected, make sure the blue cap on the central line closest to your body is still attached.





Do not reconnect the chemotherapy to your central line.



□ Remove the white cap on the saline flush. Put the white saline flush cap on the end of the chemotherapy line. Put the syringe with the saline flush in the trash.



4. Clean up the area:

- Wrap the chemotherapy pump in one of the absorbent blue pads. Use the tape to help secure the absorbent blue pad to the chemotherapy pump.
- ☐ Place the pump in one of the BIOHAZARD bags.



Seal the BIOHAZARD bag. **Do not throw the BIOHAZARD bag in the trash at home**. Put the BIOHAZARD bag with the chemotherapy pump wrapped in the absorbent blue pad into an empty garbage or plastic bag. Tie a knot at the top of the bag to close it.

You will bring the BIOHAZARD bag with the chemotherapy pump inside to the Complex Malignant Hematology Program Outpatient Unit (C6-06, C-Wing, 6th Floor, Room 06).



	If the chemotherapy liquid spills on your clothes or bed sheets, put them in the washing machine right away. Use laundry soap and wash with hot water.		
☐ If the chemotherapy liquid spills on a surfate (such as on the floor or counter), put the absorbent blue pad over the spill. Make sublue side of the pad is facing up. Try to so as much of the chemotherapy liquid as yo			

Put the absorbent blue pad in the empty BIOHAZARD bag.



☐ Use paper towel to wash the area with warm water and soap. Rinse the area with water 2 times.

Put the used paper towel in the BIOHAZARD bag with the absorbent blue pad used to soak up the spill.



☐ Take off the gloves and put them in the BIOHAZARD bag with the used absorbent blue pad and paper towel.



- Seal the BIOHAZARD bag. Put the BIOHAZARD bag into an empty garbage or plastic bag. You do not need to bring this bag to the hospital. Throw the garbage or plastic bag in the trash at home.
- ☐ Take off your mask. Put the mask in the trash. Wash your hands with warm water and soap. Dry your hands with clean paper towel.

5. Drop off the garbage or plastic bag:		
	☐ Bring the BIOHAZARD bag with the	
	chemotherapy pump wrapped in the absorbent	
	blue pad to the Complex Malignant Hematology	
	Program Outpatient Unit (C6-06, C-Wing, 6th	
	Floor, Room 06).	

Your health-care team will go over next steps with you for your chemotherapy treatment.

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Need this information in an accessible format? Email: patienteducation@sunnybrook.ca



