

SAFE HANDLING OF HAZARDOUS DRUGS

WHEN SHOULD YOU USE CHEMO PRECAUTIONS?

- While the patient is receiving chemotherapy and for *48 hours after the last dose*.

WHAT ARE CHEMO PRECAUTIONS?

- Chemo precautions consist of the following:
 - Placing a special container marked for hazardous waste at the patient's bedside.
 - By disposing of all waste materials generated by or contaminated with chemo into this container.
 - By keeping the lid to the container closed.
 - By using an impervious "chemo" gown and gloves when handling the bodily fluids of the patient, goggles should be worn if splashing is expected.
 - By flushing the toilet twice after the emptying of bodily fluids.
 - By educating staff and visitors about chemo precautions.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF THERE IS A CHEMO SPILL?

- Restrict the area of the spill.
- Notify the Nursing and the Environmental Supervisors.
- Obtain a chemo spill kit.
- Post sign indicating spill.
- Put on PPE, including respirator for spill > 5ml.
- Clean spill < 5ml with gauze.
- Clean spill > 5ml with absorbent pads.
- Have spill area cleaned by environmental staff (three times with detergent).
- Place all contaminated supplies in the bag from spill kit and then into chemo waste container.
- Linen contaminated with chemo shall be discarded into the chemo bucket.

WHAT IF THE CHEMO SPILLS ON AN ASSOCIATE?

- Restrict area of spill.
- Remove contaminated garments.
- Obtain spill kit as above.
- Wash exposed skin with copious amounts of soap and water.
- Wash eyes with water.
- Notify supervisor.

Refer to policy: NS-30-518 for complete information.