

Safety at Home If You Have a Systemic Therapy Medication Spill

Your systemic therapy medication can spill if you have a leak from your tubing or if the bag/bottle is disconnected or is punctured. Systemic therapy medications must be handled safely to protect you and anyone who gives you care. This handout offers information on what to do if you have a systemic therapy medication spill. Your systemic therapy treatment may also be called chemotherapy.

Spill Kit

You have been given a Spill Kit. This Spill Kit will help you or anyone who gives you care clean up a spill or leak of your systemic therapy medication.

The Spill Kit has:

- 1 gown
- 2 pairs of gloves (latex free, powder free, nitrile)
- 1 mask
- 1 face shield (or pair of goggles)
- 1 chemoplus “waste” bag
- 1 chemo “bio-wipe” bag or “chemosorb” pad

What you or anyone who gives you care needs to do to be safe

- Any material (other than your clothes, sheets, upholstery or carpet) that comes in contact with your systemic therapy medication must be put in the “waste” bag that was given to you in your Spill Kit. Take the “waste” bag with what you put into it to the Systemic Therapy Suite during regular hours (Monday to Friday from 8 am to 5:30 pm). After these hours or on holidays, take it to the emergency department at Lakeridge Health Oshawa. Do not put the “waste” bag into your regular garbage.
- If your clothes or sheets become wet with your systemic therapy medication you need to wash them. Wash the item(s) 2 separate times using soap and hot water. Wash them in a washing machine when possible. Do not wash them with other laundry. If your clothes or sheets become dripping wet with your systemic therapy medication, put them in the “waste” bag. You need to take the “waste” bag with your clothes or sheets in it to the hospital (following the instructions above). They need to be thrown out with hospital garbage. Do not put the “waste” bag in your regular garbage.
- If your carpet or floor becomes wet with any of your systemic therapy medication or any of your body fluids, follow the directions from number 2 to number 7 on the back of this handout.
- Use a mattress pad with plastic on the back to protect your mattress from becoming wet with any spilled systemic therapy medication or your body fluids (urine, sweat, vomit, stool, semen or vaginal fluid).

- If any systemic therapy medication splashes into your eyes, wash your eyes out with water for 15 minutes. You need to be seen by a doctor right away. Go to the Emergency Department at the hospital closest to your home. Take this handout with you and show it to the doctor and the nurse in the emergency department.

What you or anyone who gives you care will need to do if your systemic therapy medication starts to leak from your tubing:

1. Take the contents of your Spill Kit out of the sealed bag.
2. Put on the gown, 2 pairs of gloves, mask and face shield (or goggles).
3. Use the “bio-wipe bag” found in the Spill Kit to absorb and wipe up the spill. Follow the instructions on the outside of the “bio-wipe” bag.
4. Clean the area of the spill with dish soap and hot water using paper towels. It is recommended you do a final wipe using bleach. The use of bleach may depend on the area you are cleaning as bleach can change the colour of fabric.
5. Carefully put the “bio-wipe” bag, gloves, gown, mask, face shield (or goggles) and the paper towels you used into the “waste” bag. Tie the bag closed.
6. Take the “waste” bag back to the Systemic Therapy Suite during regular hours (Monday to Friday from 8am to 5:30pm). After these hours or on holidays, you need to take this bag to the emergency department at Lakeridge Health Oshawa. You also need to be seen by a nurse and doctor to have your medication bag/bottle disconnected and your central line looked at.

Pregnant or breastfeeding women and children should not touch any of your systemic therapy medications, your body fluids or laundry that has your body fluids on them.

If you have a problem or concern about a symptom or side effect from your cancer treatment:

1. Call your primary nurse at the cancer centre from Monday to Friday, 8:30 am to 4 pm, (except on holidays). Use the phone number your primary nurse gave you.
2. Contact CareChart Digital Health from Monday to Friday, 5 pm to 8:30 am and anytime on weekends and holidays for symptom management support.

Talk to a nurse using one of these options:

- Call the after-hours telephone line at 1-877-681-3057.
- Request a video call by going to carechart.ca.
- Use the CareChart Digital Health App. This App is available to download for iOS or Android devices.

Call 911 or go to the Emergency Department at the hospital closest to you for a medical emergency. Please talk to any member of your healthcare team if you have questions or do not understand any of the information in this handout.

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