

## Handling hazardous drugs safely at home: Intravenous (I.V.) drugs

This information provides tips to safely handle intravenous, subcutaneous, or intramuscular hazardous drugs at home. By working safely with these drugs, you can lessen the chance of exposing yourself, your family and friends, and the environment to these chemicals.

**Patient Name:**

**Date:**

**Hazardous Drug:**

### Supplies

- Home Hazardous Drug Spill Kit
- 2 Back-up AA batteries
- Clamps

### Handling hazardous drugs

- Wash your hands before and after handling hazardous drugs.
- Wear disposable nitrile gloves (not latex) when handling any type of hazardous drugs. Do not use torn or punctured gloves.
- Place a plastic-backed, absorbent pad under the work area if changing pump cassettes, tubing, or when handling hazardous drugs.
- Check intravenous (I.V.) connections regularly to make sure that they are secure.
- Check infusion pump regularly to make sure it is infusing without difficulty.
- Discard any used gloves in a plastic bag. Tie or seal the plastic bag and place in your household trash bag for disposal.

### Storing hazardous drugs

- Your nurse will tell you about special storage instructions.
- Keep all drugs out of the reach of children and pets.
- If the drug needs refrigeration, do not place it in or near the freezer, and separate it from other foods (for example, use a crisper bin or place the medication in a container).

### Accidental hazardous drug spills

- If you suspect a leak or spill of the hazardous drug, immediately stop the infusion pump and use clamps to clamp the catheter line.

- Clean small hazardous drug spills (less than 1 teaspoon) immediately. Wear two pairs of nitrile gloves from the spill kit and blot the spill dry with a gauze pad. Clean the area three times with soap and water.
- For larger spills, follow the instructions on the spill kit. Clean the spill area three times with soap and water, and dispose of the gauze pads in specially marked chemotherapy waste bags contained in the home spill kit. Seal the waste bag securely and return to the nursing unit or clinic for disposal.
- Call your nursing unit or clinic for further instruction.
- Immediately take off clothing soiled with hazardous drugs or soiled with body fluids (blood, urine, feces, vomit, or drenching sweat).
- When handling bed linens or clothing which have been soiled by hazardous drugs or body fluids, do not touch the soiled area with your bare hands. Wear nitrile gloves and a gown. Immediately place the linens or clothing in the washing machine. Wash items in hot water, separate from other laundry. If you are unable to wash these items immediately, place them in a sealed plastic bag until they can be washed.

### Skin care for accidental splashes

- Hazardous drugs spilled on your skin may cause irritation. Wash the area thoroughly with soap and water, dry the area, and contact your doctor. Observe the skin for the next 7 days. If redness or skin irritation occurs, contact your doctor.
- If the drug splashes into your eye, flush the eye with tap water for at least 15 minutes and contact your doctor.

### Disposing of body waste while you take hazardous drugs

- You may use the bathroom as usual. Wash your hands with soap and water after using the toilet.
- Toilets should be double-flushed with the lid down each time they are used for 48 hours after receiving hazardous drugs.
- All caregivers must wear nitrile gloves when handling your sweat soaked linens and clothing or your blood, urine, stool, or vomitus for 48 hours after you receive hazardous drugs.
- After using any devices for bodily waste, thoroughly wash your hands and the devices with soap and water.
- Diapers should be placed in “zip-lock” plastic bags for disposal, for 48 hours after receiving hazardous drugs.

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