HANDLING OF CYTOTOXIC AND HAZARDOUS MEDICATION SPILLS

POLICY:

Oncology, RN’s, Pharmacy Staff, and Environmental Services Staff shall be educated in the handling of cytotoxic and hazardous medication spills.

PURPOSE:

To protect hospital staff, patients, visitors and environment from exposure to or contamination with a cytotoxic medication.

To inform staff of the correct procedure to safely clean up medication spills.

A spill is considered 5cc or greater.

SUPPORTIVE DATA:

Cytotoxic medications are used in the treatment of cancer. These medications are potentially harmful if handled incorrectly.

EQUIPMENT LIST:

One spill kit which contains:
1 Protective gown X-large
2 Pair latex gloves - 1 large, 1 medium
1 Respiratory mask
1 Pair chemical splash goggles
2 Absorbent towels
2 Spill control pillows
1 Scoop and brush
2 Waste disposal bags
4 Chemotherapy hazard labels
Kit box used as sharps disposal container
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**Procedure Steps**

1. Note: In order to help remember the sequence of procedures to perform in case of a cytotoxic spill, the mnemonic “APICNIC” represents the flow of action:

   A. ALERT co-workers to spill location and avoid personnel traffic

   B. PROTECT during cleanup by wearing protective gear from the kit.

   C. ISOLATE the spill location with signage and monitoring assistance.

   D. CONTAIN substance and collect fragments with absorbent materials.

   E. NEUTRALIZE with hypochlorite (bleach) additive(s) from kit.

   F. IMMERSSE pads to absorb liquid, dispose into ziplock bag from a kit

   G. CLEANSE with 3 rinses 70% alcohol.

2. Follow APICNIC:
   a. Alert co-workers to assist in avoiding foot traffic by hospital personnel, patients, or visitors from the spill area.

   b. Protect personnel involved in the cleanup by wearing protective gear over clothing, goggles, gloves, and respirator mask.

   c. Isolate sufficient local area required for comfortable cleanup space around the spill (using signage and assistance from hospital personnel for traffic monitoring or additional supplies).

3. Notify Environmental Services:
   a. Neutralize the gathering of chemotoxic medications, collect sharps, used absorptive pads, and the inert surface on which they rest, by use of the combination neutralizing agents from the spill kit.

   b. Immerse additional pads if necessary to soak up the remaining liquids and materials, and place ALL of the cytotoxic waste bag.

   c. Cleanse the spill area with 3 rinsings of 70% alcohol, then water rinse and wipe; after area is completely clean and dry, and all cleaning materials and waste have been placed in the cytotoxic waste bag(s), remove protective gear, seal it into waste bag(s), place into rigid waste containers, label as chemotoxic, and remove from the area to eventually be incineration.

4. Linen which has been contaminated with hazardous spill shall be:
   a. double bagged using clear plastic bags

   b. Place "chemotherapy hazard" label on plastic bag

   c. Call laundry to pick up labeled plastic bag Linen will be laundered as infectious linen

5. Staff will notify the Nurse Manager and/or supervisor and complete variance report.

**Key Points**

1. To prevent inadvertent spread of contamination.

2. Do not touch liquid.

4. Staff shall be in protective wear

5. Forward variance report to QI director

b. QI director will notify Hazardous Materials and Waste Facilitator.
6. The Administrative Director and/or supervisor will:
   b. Notify Occupational Health nurse if employee exposure.

DOCUMENTATION:

1. Health care personnel exposed during spill management should complete a variance report. (This would not include staff wearing appropriate protective attire during clean up.)

REFERENCE: