

Dealing with a chemotherapy spillage

Background:

- Chemotherapy is highly toxic and must be managed with precautions.
- Although chemotherapy should not leak from the infuser line or at the connection between the infuser and PICC line or port, it is possible.
- Make sure your family members, friends or carers know the contents of the kit and how to use it. Please try to keep the spillage kit and information to hand when your infuser is attached.

Contents of the spillage kit:

1. Gloves (non-sterile) x2 pairs
2. Aprons x2
3. Overshoes x2 pairs
4. Masks x2
5. Absorbent towel/pad x2
6. Alcohol wipe x2
7. Waste bag x2
8. Cytotoxic waste bin
9. Patient information



Signs of spillage:

- The area around your PICC line or port is wet.
- Clothes around the infuser or infuser line are wet.



What to do if there is a spillage:

- Isolate the spillage area immediately.
- Keep people, especially children and pregnant women, away from the spillage area.
- Do not touch the spillage until protective equipment from the kit (gloves, apron, overshoes and mask) has been put on.
- If you need someone to help clear up the spillage, make sure they also put on the protective equipment.
- If there is a clamp on the PICC line or port, clamp it, if not, leave it as it is.
- Deal with spillages on skin, in eyes or on clothing first and then deal with spillages on other surfaces.
- **Skin:** Immediately hold the area under running water for 10 minutes, wash area 3 times with soap and water. Do not scrub the skin. Contact the Royal Marsden Macmillan 24/7 Hotline (0208 915 6899).
- **Eyes:** Immediately wash/rinse the eyes with running water for 10 minutes. Contact the Royal Marsden Macmillan 24/7 Hotline (0208 915 6899).
- **Clothing:**
 - Small spillage: Remove clothing and wash immediately. Separate clothing from non-contaminated clothing and wash 3 times on the hottest wash. If skin is contaminated follow advice stated above.
 - Large spillage: Remove clothing and dispose immediately in waste bag. If skin is contaminated follow advice stated above.
- **Surfaces:** Clean the spillage working from the outside inwards. Clear up with absorbent towel/pad and wash the area with soap and water at least 3 times.
- Put all waste (including protective equipment) into waste bag and double bag it with the other bag provided. Place in cytotoxic waste bin and seal the lid shut. Bring the bin to the hospital for safe disposal.
- Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water.
- On your next visit, inform the hospital that the kit was used: incident will be discussed, and replacement kit will be given.

Contact the hotline if you suspect a spillage of chemotherapy or have a spillage of chemotherapy on skin or in eyes.

The Royal Marsden Macmillan 24/7 Hotline: 0208 915 6899

