

SECTION 8B: PUMPS & DRUG ADMINISTRATION	POLICY: 8B.12
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PURPOSE:

- To provide instruction on the safe and proper management of chemotherapy for patients in the home setting.

POLICY:

- Helms Home Care will complete all chemotherapy procedures in the home in accordance with this policy.
- All chemotherapy services will be provided in the home care setting by a registered nurse who has been trained in accordance with this policy.

CONSIDERATIONS:

- Helms Home Care nurses providing chemotherapy services will be trained on:
 - Chemotherapy in the Home patient education
 - Chemotherapy Takedown procedure
 - Chemotherapy Spill procedure
- Helms Home Care nurses will not be authorized to:
 - Prepare or administer chemotherapy
 - Determine, set, or adjust infusion rates or pump settings for chemotherapy
 - Troubleshoot or otherwise instruct patient on chemotherapy administration

CHEMOTHERAPY PATIENT EDUCATION:

- During the initial admission visit, and as needed thereafter, the skilled nurse will ensure that the patient/caregiver verbalizes or demonstrates care and precautions related specifically to chemotherapy in the home.
 - SN will review the “Chemotherapy at Home” education provided by the clinic/pharmacy.
 - SN will reinforce education, precautions and standards of care as needed at subsequent visits.

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CHEMOTHERAPY TAKEDOWN PROCEDURE:

1. Wash hands with soap & water
2. Prepare a clean work surface area.
3. Gather supplies:
 - 1 saline syringe
 - 1 Heparin syringe
 - alcohol wipes
 - red cap
 - precautions kit
 - bio-hazard bag
4. Re-wash or sanitize hands
5. Place saline and heparin syringes on clean work surface.
6. Dress with the poly-coated chemo gown, hair cap, blue nitrile gloves and mask provided in the precautions kit. (The gown may have been used during a prior visit.)
 - Do not discard the gown unless it is compromised during the visit. We will save and continue to use the gown for subsequent visits.
 - If the gown is compromised and disposed, request a replacement.
7. Ensure that the pump is turned off or that the Accuflo / easy-pump is clamped.
8. Disconnect the chemotherapy tubing from the end of the central line (hold on to end cap when disconnecting tubing to ensure end cap remains with central line) and place the red cap at the end of the IV tubing, to prevent medication leakage.
9. Remove the tubing from the pump.
10. Discard the tubing and the medication bag directly in the bio-hazard bag.
11. Remove gloves, discard in bio-hazard bag and re-wash or sanitize your hands.
12. Put on new gloves.
13. Scrub the end of the central line with an alcohol wipe for 15 seconds (“scrub the hub”) and allow to dry completely.
14. Flush with saline. Discard empty syringe in the bio-hazard bag.

Policies & Procedures



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15. Scrub the end of your central line, again, with a new alcohol wipe for 15 seconds and allow to dry completely.
16. Flush with heparin. Discard empty syringe in the bio-hazard bag.
17. Clamp the line.
18. Remove gloves, discard in the bio-hazard bag and re-wash or sanitize your hands.

For patients with a Port-a-Cath:

19. Remove dressing from the port.
20. Remove needle:
 - If you have yellow or black plastic wings, pinch the wings together with one hand, while stabilizing port with the other hand. This will pop out the needle.
 - If you have a clear or white plastic port needle, hold the white circle against the chest and pull the hub away from the chest. This will remove the needle.
21. Discard needle in sharps container.
22. Re-wash or sanitize your hands.

CHEMOTHERAPY SPILL PROCEDURE:

- A cytotoxic (chemotherapy) spill requires immediate attention and must be effectively controlled to prevent unnecessary contamination of the environment.
- The procedures listed below, along with the spill kit provided in the home will effectively contain a chemotherapy spill.
 1. Don the poly-coated chemo gown, shoe covers, respirator mask and safety goggles.
 2. Don surgical gloves, then put heavy-duty gloves on over the surgical gloves.
 3. Open the spill kit.
 4. Drape the enclosed towel over spill to prevent spreading. Be careful not to touch or spill or generate any aerosols.
 5. Remove drape from spill and place it in the yellow chemotherapy container.

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6. Sprinkle absorbent powder or place absorbent pad over spill. If powder is applied, use whisk to broom powder into pan.
7. Place absorbed powder or pad into yellow chemotherapy container.
8. Remove protective clothing and place it in the yellow chemotherapy container.
9. Place lid on the yellow chemotherapy container.
10. Remove bottom portion of both caution labels that are affixed to the yellow chemotherapy container.
11. Place labels over the edge of the lid to seal the container.
12. Notify agency that a spill has occurred.
13. **Note:** The nurse is not responsible for disposal of the biohazard container. Once full, the patient should be instructed to contact their Pharmacy to arrange proper disposal.