

# CYTOTOXIC MEDICATIONS

All nurses administering cytotoxic medication must have completed the **eviQ Adult Antineoplastic Drug Administration Course for the non-cancer setting RGM003** (On healthLearn) and completed the relevant sign off.

Nurses who do not administer any form of chemotherapy but have contact with patients receiving cytotoxic medications should complete the **eviQ Adult module 1: Handling antineoplastic drugs and related waste safely RGM004** and sign off.

Refer to the **CDHB Cytotoxic and Biotherapies website** for more information and relevant policies.

Ensure appropriate resources are available: PPE, cytotoxic waste bags and cytotoxic spill kit.

Spill kits are kept in \_\_\_\_\_.

Replacement spill kits can be obtained from \_\_\_\_\_.

## WASTE AND SPILL MANAGEMENT

### Precautions apply for 48 hours following the final dose of chemotherapy

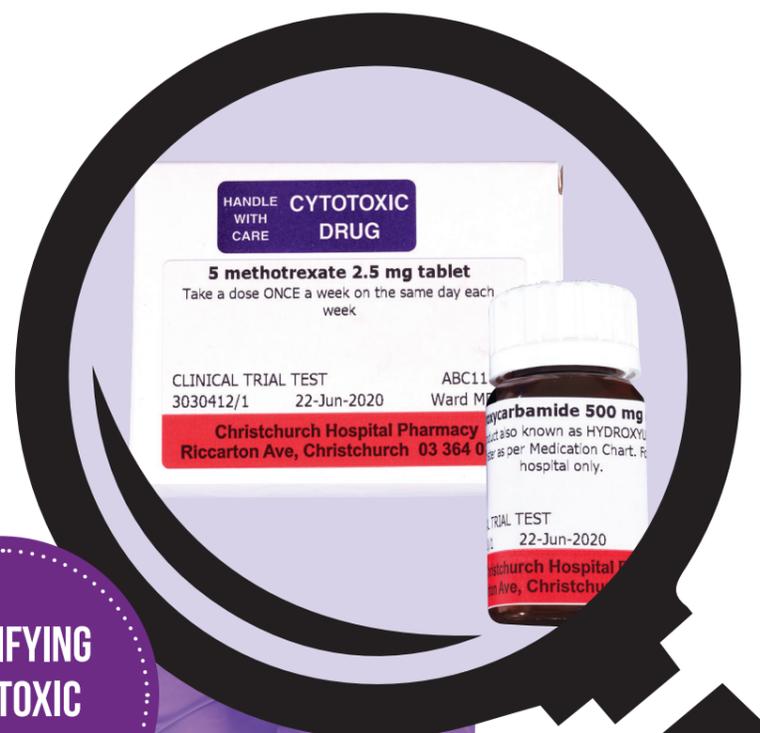
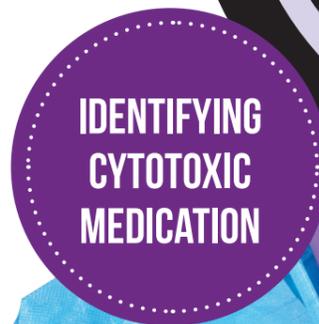
- When handling body fluids and waste from patients receiving cytotoxic therapy, take standard precautions
- Dispose of soiled items in a purple cytotoxic waste bag
- Wash patient's contaminated skin thoroughly with warm soapy water
- Place contaminated linen in an alginate liner within a red bag  
Send to laundry ASAP

## CYTOTOXIC ADMINISTRATION

**Two certified nurses (both to have completed the eviQ package) must be involved in the checking and administering process**

### Oral

- Tablets are dispensed from pharmacy as foil wrapped capsules or in clearly identified containers
- Gloves approved for chemotherapy administration must be worn when administering cytotoxic medications
- Tip medication into a disposable medicine cup, using a 'non touch' technique
- The cytotoxic drug is to be taken by the patient immediately after being checked by both nurses to complete the double independent checking process at the bedside
- Place the used medicine cup into the purple cytotoxic waste bag
- If the medication comes in contact with the skin, the area should be washed promptly with warm, soapy water
- **THESE MEDICATIONS SHOULD NEVER BE BROKEN OR CRUSHED** - consult your pharmacist for guidance around alternatives for safe administration



### CYTOTOXIC



### WEAR YOUR GLOVES

- Provide patient and family education on safe handling of body fluids
- Put the cytotoxic alert on Floview and Patient Status at a Glance boards
- Deceased patients are treated as cytotoxic if they have had chemotherapy within the last seven days and mortuary staff must be notified
- For further information please refer to the Policy and Procedures on the Cytotoxic and Biotherapies website

### Intravenous/subcutaneous/intramuscular

**Ensure correct PPE is worn.** This includes chemotherapy approved gloves and a closed front gown made of impermeable material with long sleeves and elastic cuffs.

A dedicated trolley should be used for the administration of IV/SC/IM cytotoxic medications.

#### These include:

- Ganciclovir
- Cyclophosphamide
- Pentamidine
- Methotrexate

Comply with the local policies, procedures and guidelines for the administration of cytotoxic medications via different routes.

For further information please refer to CDHB Fluid and Medication Policies and Procedures

Developed by the Canterbury Regional Cancer and Haematology Service. To be reviewed August 2023.

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**Canterbury**  
District Health Board  
Te Poari Hauora ō Waitaha