

Management of Cytotoxic Waste

Equipment

PPE
Plastic aprons/gloves
Cytotoxic waste bags and sharps containers

Procedure

Safe disposal of equipment

1. Keep all empty cytotoxic contaminated syringes, IV bags, lines and access devices in the disposable container or bag on the trolley.
2. Once administration is completed, do not disconnect the line from the bag.
3. Enclose the used items within the disposable container, wrap in the plastic backed sheet and place in the cytotoxic waste bag.
4. Medication pottles should also be placed in a cytotoxic waste bag.
5. Sharps that are used for cytotoxic administration are placed into a cytotoxic sharps container after use.
6. Place all 'non-sharp' materials used in the preparation and administration of cytotoxic drugs such in a cytotoxic waste bag.

Safe disposal of patient waste

The first 48 hours post drug administration has been deemed the most hazardous period for drug excretion however many drugs are excreted in body fluids up to seven days post administration.

1. Universal precautions should be used at all times when handling any body fluids.
2. Patients should be told to flush the toilet with the lid down. Any pans, jugs or potties contaminated by cytotoxic waste should be sanitised as soon as possible after use.
3. If waiting for sanitation, this equipment should be covered with a plastic-backed absorbent cover, labelled with cytotoxic stickers and set aside from other equipment.
4. Non disposable equipment must be washed immediately in warm soapy water and should never be left for another staff member to wash.

Safe disposal of contaminated linen and clothing.

1. Linen contaminated with body fluid waste or blood from a patient who has received cytotoxic drugs within 48 hours should be treated as hazardous. This requires specific handling measures
2. Personnel handling this linen should wear protective gloves and gowns (PPE).
3. Contaminated hospital laundry should be double bagged in an alginate bag and red infectious linen bag and sent to the laundry.
4. Personal clothing is to be double bagged in plastic and hot washed as soon as possible. Instruct relatives on handling clothing to wash at home (handle with gloves, wash separately in a hot wash).
5. If there is a large direct drug spill consider disposal of contaminated materials using cytotoxic waste bag.

Policy Owner
Date of Authorisation