

# Guidelines on management of chemotherapy spillage at home from your infusion device

To reduce the risk of contamination to the patient and their family.

If your chemotherapy device begins to leak or you have any problems with your central line then please follow the guidelines below or contact your treatment unit.

If your device is leaking and your central line has a clamp on it, ensure the clamp is closed.

1. Clean up the spillage yourself to prevent others being exposed to the chemotherapy. If you are unable to clean the spill yourself keep the number of people exposed to the minimum required. Pregnant women and children under the age of 16 should not help.
2. If chemotherapy has spilt on skin, immediately hold affected area under cool water for 10 minutes.
3. Open the emergency cleaning kit (spillage kit\*) away from the contaminated area.
4. Do not touch the spill area or device until the gloves supplied in the spillage kit have been put on and cover your clothes with the plastic apron
5. If leaking, detach the device from the end of your central line. Ensure the end of your central line is closed with a connector. If not – use the connector supplied in the kit. Attach the bung supplied to the end of the infusion device, to prevent further spillage.
6. Use the absorbent material in the pack to mop-up any spilled fluid. Make sure to work from the outside of the spillage to the centre of the area that is affected, to avoid further spreading of the spilled fluid.
7. When the chemotherapy spill has been mopped-up, and there is no evidence of any further liquid in the spill area, place the absorbent material into the plastic bag or sharps bin supplied. Once detached from the central line, the chemotherapy device must always be put into the plastic bag or sharps bin and **never** re-attached. This is to reduce the risk of infection
8. Once all the spillage has been cleared and the remaining chemotherapy contained, the protective clothing should be removed and placed into the plastic bag/sharps bin. Finally the plastic bag/sharps bin should be sealed.
9. Once the spill area has dried, wash the area with **water only**, and leave to dry. **Do not add any cleaning agents to the spill area. If spillage is on carpet, after washing allow to dry and then Hoover with a vacuum, (please do not use a steam cleaner).**
10. Spillage on clothes/bedding/fabrics  
It is advisable not to wear expensive or delicate fabrics when having your chemotherapy treatment in case of spillage. Continue to wear gloves and apron while handling the contaminated clothing. If there is a small amount of the chemotherapy spilled onto clothes, the clothes should then be washed separately from non-contaminated clothing in the hottest wash for the fabric in a washing machine. It is advisable to wash contaminated items twice in the washing machine.
11. Contact your unit as soon as possible to arrange for your line to be flushed and chemotherapy to be reviewed and a new pump attached if required.
12. Always return your chemotherapy spillage waste to the local chemotherapy unit for disposal.
13. Community Nurses / Pharmacies / G.P.s etc **do not** have the facilities to dispose of this waste.

- Contents of spillage kit to be agreed locally.

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Version: 4.4	Agreed by Chair Network Chemotherapy Group:		Review date: June 2023