



## PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET – HAZARDOUS DRUGS

As of April 2016

You, or your family member will get a drug that might be harmful to others who are in contact with your body fluids (e.g. urine, stool, vomit and blood). For the first week after getting this drug, you are asked to use the following safety measures:

- Wear gloves (nitrile or latex) to handle body fluids or clean up spills. For more information about buying gloves, ask your health care provider.
- Keep a plastic container (e.g. an ice cream bucket) close by to use in case you vomit. Flush vomit down the toilet with the lid down. Flush the toilet again.
- Avoid splashing and spilling urine or vomit around the toilet.
  - Males should sit on the toilet.
  - Avoid the use of bedpans and urinals. If you need to use a bedpan or urinal, your caregiver should wear gloves when emptying and cleaning it. It should be rinsed with water after each use and washed with soap and water at least once a day.
  - At home, flush the toilet 2 times with the lid down.
- If you are on a 24-hour infusion, or have problems with bladder or bowel control, use plastic-backed mattress pads to protect the mattress.
- To protect skin:
  - For children, use disposable diapers rather than cloth. Remember to use gloves for diaper changes.
  - Wash genitals with mild soap and water and use a moisture barrier (e.g. Vaseline or Criticaid cream) after each urination or stool.
  - If receiving radiation to the pelvis, use products that do not contain lanolin.
- Disposable items soiled with body fluids will be placed in a special hazardous drug container while in hospital. At home, these items should be double-bagged, stored separately from your household garbage (safely out of the reach of children and pets) and disposed of as usual.
- Non-disposable items soiled with body fluids:
  - Wash bed-sheets or clothing separately 2 times with regular detergent in a washing machine using hot water before adding to your regular laundry.
  - Countertops or floors, should be washed with soapy water using paper towels then double bagged, stored separately from your household garbage (safely out of the reach of children and pets) and disposed of as usual.
- Store hazardous drugs at home in a childproof container, out of reach of children and pets. Do not store these drugs in the bedroom. High moisture may damage the drugs. Check labels to see if the drug should be kept in the refrigerator or away from light.
- During sexual activity, wear a condom to protect your partner from being exposed to the drug. Oral sex is discouraged. Kissing is safe.
- Avoid getting pregnant while taking this drug. Discuss with your physician when it might be safe to plan a pregnancy.
  - Pregnant mothers or caregivers of children taking these drugs must wear gloves for all activities involving body fluids to protect the unborn baby.
- If you are a woman who is breastfeeding and are getting these drugs, they can contaminate your breast milk. You should stop breastfeeding when beginning treatment.



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### Managing a Drug or Body Fluid Spill in the Home or School

- Wear gloves at all times while cleaning up waste or handling spoiled items. Wash hands after removing gloves. Do not touch the spill with unprotected hands.
- Clean up spills as soon as you can to avoid spread to other areas.
- Flush waste down the toilet.
- Use toilet paper, if you can, to clean up spills, then flush it down the toilet. If you use paper towels, seal them in a plastic bag and put the bag in the garbage.
- Clean washable surfaces with soapy water and rinse well.
- Wash linens soiled with waste separately in your washing machine or sink with soapy water.
- Wash out any non-disposable containers used to collect waste, with soapy water.
- Wash any waste that gets on the skin with soap and water.
  - Waste water used in cleaning, laundry and washing can be poured down the sink or toilet.

**NOTE: Please tell all healthcare personnel at appointments and tests that you have received a hazardous drug and when the last dose was taken.**