

CLINICAL PROCEDURE

MANAGEMENT OF A CYTOTOXIC & HAZARDOUS NON-CYTOTOXIC DRUG SPILL

TARGET AUDIENCE

This procedure will be used by all Peter Mac staff responsible for the care of a patient receiving cytotoxic chemotherapy and hazardous non-cytotoxic drugs and who are responsible for the management of a drug spill.

Only Peter Mac nursing staff who have undertaken specific education, training and competency assessment in the management of a spill or Peter Mac staff who are under direct supervision of another staff member competent in this skill can manage a cytotoxic and hazardous non-cytotoxic drug spill. The management of a cytotoxic and hazardous non-cytotoxic spill competency is a mandatory assessment for all Peter Mac nursing staff.

STATE ANY RELATED PETER MAC POLICIES, PROCEDURES OR GUIDELINES

[Medication Management](#)

[Medication Management for Nurses](#)

[Hand Hygiene](#)

[Administration & Management of Anti-Cancer Drugs](#)

[Management of Anti-Cancer Drug Extravasation](#)

[Administration of Cytotoxics In The Home/Community](#)

[Environmental Management](#)

[Personal Protective Equipment](#)

[First Aid Procedure](#)

[Safe Handling of Cytotoxic, Monoclonal Antibody & Hazardous Non-Cytotoxic Drugs](#)

[Spillages of Blood & Body Substances](#)

[Administration of Intravesical Immunotherapy: BCG](#)

PURPOSE

This document describes the evidence-based best practice procedure for the management of a cytotoxic and hazardous non-cytotoxic drug spill.

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PRACTICE POINTS AND CONSIDERATIONS

A hazardous non-cytotoxic drug spill refers to any liquid or powder spill, a spill involving crushed tablets or capsule contents of a hazardous non-cytotoxic drug as classified in the Safe Handling of Cytotoxic, Monoclonal Antibody & Hazardous Non-Cytotoxic Drugs procedure.

Spills of bodily fluids following administration of a hazardous non-cytotoxic drug, should be handled with standard precautions and do not require the process outlined in this procedure. Equipment used to manage a hazardous non-cytotoxic drug & body fluid spill can be disposed of in a sealed biohazard waste bag (yellow) and placed in a biohazard bin (yellow).

A cytotoxic spill refers to both a liquid or powder spill of a cytotoxic drug and/or the bodily fluids of the patient within 7 days of administration of a cytotoxic drug. Equipment used in this situation can be disposed of in a sealed cytotoxic waste bag (purple) and placed in a cytotoxic bin (purple).

The same spill kit is used to manage both a cytotoxic spill and a hazardous non-cytotoxic drug spill.

*** For further information on definitions see the table at the end of the document.**

Background Information

The basic management principles of accidental exposure to cytotoxic and hazardous non-cytotoxic agents involving patients, visitors or Peter Mac staff members are:

- To take every precaution possible to prevent spills and exposure from occurring
- Appropriate assessment of the known risks associated with cytotoxic and hazardous non-cytotoxic therapy or research with such compounds is essential. This includes undertaking specific education, training and competency assessment regarding the preparation, administration, usage and disposal of these agents

Spills may result in the contamination of floors, work surfaces, equipment, bedding and clothing as well as the patient, visitor or staff member. If a staff member identifies an unattended body fluid spill they should seek assistance to determine the type of spill and manage accordingly. Any cytotoxic or hazardous non-cytotoxic drug spill that involves direct contamination of a patient, staff member or visitor should be managed by nursing staff and a comprehensive health assessment of the person involved may be required.

Spills in Non-Clinical Areas:

In the event of a hazardous drug spill occurring in a non-clinical area within the hospital, the Honeywell Cleaning Staff need to be contacted by calling the Honeywell Helpdesk on 8559 9000. Honeywell will be responsible for the overall management of the spill. The staff member who finds the spill should stay in the area until the appropriate cleaning personnel and equipment arrive.

Spills that occur during transportation:

If a spill occurs during the transportation of cytotoxic or hazardous non-cytotoxic drugs to a clinical area or to the Cytotoxic suite, then the staff member involved needs to isolate the contaminated equipment within the hard walled transport device (firmly seal the lid) and return it immediately to Pharmacy. **Two pair of chemo protectant nitrile gloves should be worn when transporting/handling cytotoxic drugs/equipment.**

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Areas involved in the administration of cytotoxic drugs must have access to facilities for staff showering and eye-washing available (a one litre bag of sterile saline with micro-drip giving set as an eye wash and/or patient showers are suitable for this purpose). Areas involved in the administration of hazardous non-cytotoxic drugs should have access to these facilities should they be required.

Immediate Management Considerations

- Restrict entry / cordon off the area to prevent spread of the spill and display “Cleaning in Progress Signs”. DO NOT LEAVE THE AREA UNATTENDED
- Immediately remove unaffected personnel from the environment to decrease extending the risk of exposure
- Request assistance with managing the spill – send an assistant to gather the spill kit, detergent and appropriate waste bin and bring to the area
- **Open the spill kit and immediately don PPE to decrease risk of exposure** Proceed with managing the spill by referring to [Table 1](#) if managing a spill on a hard surface or by referring to [Table 2](#) if managing a spill when staff, visitors or patients are directly contaminated by a cytotoxic drug or hazardous non-cytotoxic drug
- For management of cytotoxic spills which occur in the patient’s home or in the Peter Mac apartments please refer to [Administration Of Cytotoxics In The Home/Community](#)
- For management of cytotoxic spills which occur in the Cytotoxic Suite please refer to The Cytotoxic procedure Manual – SOP 15 & 16
- For management of cytotoxic spills which occur in the Peter Mac Research Laboratories please refer to the Peter MacCallum research Division – Laboratory Safety Manual. Section 9.0 Chemical Hazards: 9.3 Cytotoxic

PROCEDURE

Table 1 Procedure for managing a spill on a hard surface.

Intervention	Rationale
<p>1. If the spill is occurring from an IV flask or giving set – double glove and immediately clamp off the flow of the spill.</p> <p>Please refer to Table 2 for further detail regarding managing a spill where staff, visitors or patients are directly contaminated</p>	<p>To prevent any further contamination to surroundings, patient or staff member and spread of spill</p>

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Intervention	Rationale
<p>2. Immediately call for assistance Do not leave the area unattended Have another staff member gather the spill kit, the Deacon 90 detergent and cytotoxic bin or biohazard waste bag as required and bring it to the affected area. (See Appendix A for contents of the spill kit) Allocate responsibility for managing the spill</p>	<p>To assist in isolating the spill, prevent any further contamination and spread of spill</p>
<p>3. Ensure the patient/staff member is not in immediate danger Explain the required clean up procedure and provide reassurance</p>	<p>To ensure the patient/ staff understands what has occurred and how the incident will be managed</p>
<p>4. Open the spill kit and use the signage to isolate and restrict access of all personnel or visitors to the area. Assess the situation (size of spill, what is affected etc.) and determine how best to deal with the spill. If dealing with a cytotoxic spill remove the purple plastic cytotoxic waste bag from the spill kit, open & place on the floor. If dealing with a hazardous non-cytotoxic drug spill open a yellow biohazard waste bag and place on the floor.</p>	<p>To assist in isolating the spill and preventing further spread</p>
<p>5. Don the personal protective equipment contained in the spill kit in this order: Respirator mask Protective eyewear Hairnet (if required) 1st pair of chemoprotectant nitrile gloves Long sleeved gown with cuffs over the gloves Overshoes 2nd pair of chemo protectant nitrile gloves with gloves over the top of the cuffs</p>	<p>To minimise the risk associated with occupational exposure to drugs</p>

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Intervention	Rationale
<p>6. Allow time (approximately 30 seconds) for any aerosols to settle</p> <p>Contain the spill by placing the yellow absorbent cloth around the perimeter of the spill</p> <p>For liquid spills carefully cover spill with Chemosorb Pad and allow to absorb fluid</p> <p>If the spill involves a powder; cover with absorbent pad and carefully wet with water to dissolve the powder</p>	<p>To quickly contain the spread and decrease risk of exposure to clinical staff and patients</p>
<p>7. Take the disposable bowls out of the spill kit.</p> <p>Prepare one with approx. 1.5 litres of warm water and Deacon 90 (5%) detergent and add 1.5 litres of cold water to the other bowl (assistant to do)</p>	<p>To facilitate a chemical clean and rinse of the contaminated area</p>
<p>8. Using the plastic scoop and scraper, scoop up any waste matter and dispose into the purple cytotoxic bag or yellow biohazard bag and then dispose of the plastic scoop/scraper</p>	<p>To assist in isolating the spill and preventing further spread</p>
<p>9. Moisten the white absorbent cloths with Decon 90 detergent solution and commence cleaning from the outer aspect of the spill working inwards. Make sure to clean an area 30% larger than the area of the spill and clean the contaminated area at least 3 times</p> <p>Discard towels into the appropriate plastic waste bag</p> <p>Using the second bowl of clean water, moisten the white absorbent cloths and rinse the cleaned area at least three times. Discard towels into the appropriate plastic waste bag.</p> <p>Dry the area with any remaining cloths and discard into the appropriate plastic waste</p>	<p>To ensure the spill is adequately cleaned and prevent spread of contaminant to less</p> <p>To ensure the spill is adequately cleaned and prevent spread of contaminant to less contaminated areas</p>

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Intervention	Rationale
<p>10. For a cytotoxic spill: carefully place bowls containing contaminated water into the purple cytotoxic plastic waste bag</p> <p>For a hazardous non-cytotoxic drug spill the contaminated water can be disposed of in the nearest pan room sink. Bowls should be disposed of in a yellow biohazard waste bag</p>	<p>To ensure contaminated fluid is disposed of appropriately and safely</p>
<p>11. Once the spill has been adequately managed remove the PPE in the following order and discard into the appropriate waste plastic bag:</p> <p>Outer gloves</p> <p>Overshoes</p> <p>Long sleeved gown Protective eyewear</p> <p>Hair net</p> <p>Respirator mask</p> <p>Inner gloves</p>	<p>To minimise the risk associated with occupational exposure to cytotoxic drugs</p>
<p>12. Seal the plastic waste bag and place in either the purple cytotoxic bin or the yellow biohazard bin. Close and lock the bin (if required) and remove ASAP from the area</p>	<p>To minimise the risk associated with occupational exposure to cytotoxic drugs</p>
<p>13. Perform hand hygiene using soap and water</p>	<p>To minimise the spread of contamination</p>
<p>14. Complete a VHIMS (Riskman) report for a spill for the following situations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spills of cytotoxic and hazardous non-cytotoxic drugs that contaminate a patient, staff member or visitor • Spills that impact patient treatment or were due to process issues <p>Ensure that any actions or instructions to visitors or staff are documented</p> <p>Document the incident in the patient’s medical record if appropriate</p>	<p>To facilitate any medical follow up that may be required</p>

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Intervention	Rationale
15. Contact the prescribing doctor or on call Registrar and Pharmacist if the spill was associated with an interruption to treatment, loss of a partial dose of cytotoxic/hazardous non-cytotoxic drug or whenever a new product is required for treatment	To ensure the patient receives the total dose of drug that has been prescribed
16. Replace spill kit as soon as possible – replacement spill kits ordered through stores & purple bins through Honeywell	To ensure it is available in the event of another spill
17. If the spill occurs on carpet, treat floor in manner described above and contact Honeywell immediately for further treatment of the affected area. If carpet is “removable” (squares) then it is recommend they are disposed of as cytotoxic waste into an appropriate waste container. If carpet is not removable then it should be cleaned with a commercial carpet cleaner – decontamination of the carpet cleaning machine is not deemed necessary due to the dilution effect	To ensure the spill is adequately cleaned and prevent spread of contaminant to less contaminated areas

Table 2 Procedure for managing a cytotoxic drug spill when staff, visitors or patients are directly contaminated by cytotoxic or hazardous non-cytotoxic drug.

Intervention	Rationale
1. Immediately call for assistance and do not leave the person unattended. Arrange for the spill to be managed by a suitably qualified staff member whilst a second staff member attends to the contaminated person Collect a spill kit. Remove the purple cytotoxic plastic waste bag from the spill kit or collect a yellow biohazard waste bag for a hazardous non-cytotoxic spill, open & place on the floor	To assist in isolating the spill and preventing further spread and to minimise the risk associated with occupational exposure to cytotoxic drugs

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Intervention	Rationale
<p>2. Don PPE in the following order:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respirator mask Protective eyewear Hairnet 1st pair of chemoprotectant nitrile gloves Gown with cuffs over gloves Overshoes 2nd pair of chemoprotectant nitrile gloves <p>before dealing with any contaminated or potentially contaminated patient/visitor or staff member and before handling any contaminated or potentially contaminated clothing</p>	<p>To prevent any further contamination to patient, visitor or staff member and minimize local injury</p>
<p>3. Once wearing personal protective equipment attend to the contaminated person and/or the associated spill</p> <p>Remove any contaminated clothing and immediately wash the exposed areas of skin with copious amounts of soap and water, rinse thoroughly. Utilize shower if large area of contamination.</p>	<p>To prevent any further contamination to patient, visitor or staff member and minimize local injury</p>
<p>4. Personal clothing should be double bagged for transport home for washing (separately in soapy water with a thorough rinse) or discarded into the appropriate waste bag & then into the purple cytotoxic bin or yellow hazardous waste bin if required</p>	<p>To assist in isolating the spill and preventing further spread and to minimise the risk associated with occupational exposure to the drug</p>
<p>5. In the event of an eye-splash with drug material, the eye should be immediately flushed with copious amounts of normal saline (\geq 1litre) for at least 15 minutes (use a B line and allow gravity to flow saline into affected eye)</p>	<p>To prevent any further contamination to patient, visitor or staff member and minimize local injury</p>

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Intervention	Rationale
<p>6. Provide reassurance to the person(s) involved in the exposure incident</p> <p>7. If the incident occurs In Hours report immediately to the NUM/Department Manager. If the incident occurs Out of Hours notify the After Hours Coordinator for appropriate management.</p> <p>If the drug involved was a cytotoxic agent take the following action after completing the immediate emergency management of the contamination:</p> <p>Inpatients: should be reviewed by the responsible Medical Officer ASAP</p> <p>Staff members: The affected personnel should be managed immediately in their local clinical area. It is the responsibility of the NUM/Dept. manager to ensure the staff member is seen by local medical staff and an appropriate management plan is developed from there. This maybe either follow up in the ED if it was considered to be a significant issue/injury otherwise a follow up with the staff members GP is recommended</p> <p>Visitors: The affected personnel need to present to their GP or nearest Emergency Department</p> <p>The incident is treated as an Occupational Health Exposure therefore appropriate management is required and may require referral to the closest Emergency Department</p>	<p>To ensure the person affected understands what has occurred and the follow up that maybe required</p> <p>To facilitate any immediate and long term medical follow up that may be required.</p>
<p>8. Complete a VHIMS (Riskman) report for both a cytotoxic drug contamination and a hazardous non-cytotoxic drug contamination. If the spill involves an inpatient document all details in the patients notes</p>	<p>To ensure appropriate recording and documentation of the event has occurred</p>

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DEFINITIONS

<p>Cytotoxic Spill</p>	<p>A cytotoxic spill occurs where any amount of liquid or material thought or known to be contaminated with cytotoxic agents has become uncontained, exposed or has the potential for exposure to the general environment.</p> <p>Cytotoxic drugs have shown to be carcinogenic, genotoxic, mutagenic and/or teratogenic in treatment doses in clinical studies and therefore it is important to take every precaution when handling cytotoxic drugs/contaminated body fluids in order to minimise exposure</p> <p>A spill may involve the therapeutic agent itself, bodily fluids of patients who have been administered the agent within one week (7 days), or materials and equipment used in the preparation and administration of the agent or which may have come into direct contact with potentially contaminated bodily fluids. It may also involve a spill of cytotoxic chemical used for research purposes within the laboratory areas.</p>
<p>Cytotoxic Spill Kit</p>	<p>A preassembled kit which contains the appropriate material designed to safely and effectively manage a cytotoxic spill.</p>
<p>Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)</p>	<p>Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) refers to anything used or worn by a person to minimise risk to the person's health and safety.</p> <p>Personal Protective Equipment should include a long sleeved gown made from impermeable material, 2 pairs of chemoprotectant nitrile gloves i.e.: double glove, protective eyewear such as goggles with side shields or a full face chemical splash shield if there is an increased risk of contamination through a splash and an N95 respirator mask to be worn if there is increased risk of aerosol contamination and is a mandatory requirement when managing a cytotoxic spill.</p>
<p>Hazardous non-cytotoxic drug</p>	<p>Hazardous substance other than cytotoxic drugs which are capable of disrupting the growth and function of healthy and diseased cells. These drugs have shown to be genotoxic, mutagenic and/or teratogenic in treatment doses in clinical studies (not carcinogenic)</p>
<p>Hazardous non-cytotoxic drug spill</p>	<p>A hazardous non-cytotoxic spill occurs where any amount of liquid of a hazardous non-cytotoxic drug has become uncontained.</p>

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RESPONSIBILITIES

Peter Mac Nursing staff	Are required to complete appropriate education, training and competency assessment in the management of a cytotoxic and hazardous non-cytotoxic drug spill Only staff who have undertaken specific education/training/supervised practice and who have been deemed competent in the management of a cytotoxic spill should perform this procedure.
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LEGISLATION/REFERENCES/SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Work Safe Victoria. (2003). *Handling Cytotoxic Drugs in the Workplace*.

<http://www.workcover.vic.gov.au/>

Queensland Workplace Health and Safety Strategy (2005) Guide for handling cytotoxic drugs and related waste

Work Cover NSW (2008) Cytotoxic Drugs and Related Waste Guide

http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/formspublications/publications/Documents/cytotoxic_drugs_related_waste_risk_management_guide_5633.pdf

Government of South Australia Safe Handling: (2015) Cytotoxic Drugs and Related Wastes. Guidelines for South Australian Health Services

<https://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/f8aa68004b3f6cf6a340afe79043faf0/Safe+Handling+Cytotoxic+Guidelines.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CACHEID=f8aa68004b3f6cf6a340afe79043faf0>

Polovich, M., Whitford, J. M., & Olsen, M. (Eds.). 2009). *Chemotherapy and biotherapy guidelines and recommendations for practice*. (3rd ed.). Pittsburgh: ONS Publishing.

Decon Laboratories Limited. (2012). *Decon 90*. Retrieved July 19, 2012, from:

<http://www.decon.co.uk/english/decon90.asp>

Cancer Institute NSW. (2013). *EviQ clinical procedure - hazardous drug spill management*. Retrieved 22nd April 2013 from

<https://www.eviq.org.au/Protocol/tabid/66/categoryid/604/id/919/Clinical+Procedure+-+Hazardous+Drug+Spill+Management+.aspx>

Peter MacCallum – Cancer Research Division Laboratory safety manual, 11th edition.

ZeoMed Cytotoxic Spill Kit product information – Instructions for Cleaning up Cytotoxic Spills

FURTHER INFORMATION

Department of Nursing Education – Clinical Nurse Educators

Day Therapy Nursing Staff

Practice Development Nurse – Inpatient areas

Chemotherapy Waste & Spill Competency Assessors

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AUTHORISED BY

Jac Mathieson , Chief Nursing Officer

AUTHOR/CONTRIBUTORS

Original Author: Michael Cooney, NUM, September 2009

Updated: Judy Forsyth & Nikki Dean, Clinical Nurse Educators

In Consultation With

Practice Development Nurses, Graduate Support Nurse Coordinator, Peter Mac at Home, Clinical Nurse Educators, Cancer Imaging, Nuclear Medicine, Pharmacy, Research, Medical Staff, Infection Control, Director Environmental Services, PSA's, Honeywell Cleaning Staff

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APPENDIX A - CONTENTS OF ZEOMED CYTOTOXIC CHEMICAL SPILL KIT – PACKAGED IN A PURPLE AND WHITE CARDBOARD BOX

1 x purple fluid impervious gown

1 x pair blue fluid impervious overshoes

1 x N95 respirator particulate flat fold mask

1 x hairnet

1 x Caution Spill Floor Sign

1 x Plastic scoop/scrapper

1 x Purple plastic cytotoxic waste bag

2 x pair purple nitrile gloves, medium

2 x pair purple nitrile gloves, large

1 x protective eye shield assembled

4 x Chemosorb Pads (white & blue)

2 x yellow absorbent cloth

6 x light wipe cloths (white

2 x Disposable Plastic Bowls – 1 for Deacon 90 & 1 for water to rinse

Deacon 90 should be used to clean the area and this can be found in the clinical areas (on imprest)
– prepare the Deacon 90 by adding to 1.5L of warm water

FOR A CYTOTOXIC SPILL - A purple cytotoxic waste bag & bin should be used. All equipment used to manage the cytotoxic spill is to be placed into the purple cytotoxic waste bag first, securely tied and then into the purple bin which is then sealed and locked for immediate removal.

FOR A HAZARDOUS NON CYTOTOXIC DRUG SPILL – A yellow biohazard plastic bag & bin should be used. All equipment used to manage the spill is to be placed into the yellow biohazard waste bag first, securely tied and then into the yellow bin.

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