

*If you have any questions, please talk with your physician or nurse.*

## Anticancer Medication and Home Safety

This brochure will explain what precautions to take at home during and after anticancer medication treatment to prevent harm.

**It takes 7 days for your body to break down and get rid of most anticancer medications.**

During this period, people and pets should avoid direct contact with your:

- Blood
- Vomit
- Urine
- Stool
- Tears
- Saliva
- Semen and vaginal fluid

**Anticancer medication can be harmful if it touches skin. Follow these precautions for 7 days after your treatment.**

### Body fluids and waste precautions

#### ***People taking anticancer medication:***

- If possible, use a separate toilet from other family members.
- Men should sit on the toilet to urinate. This helps prevent urine from splashing outside the toilet.
- After using the toilet, **flush it with the lid closed**. This also helps reduce splashing. Use the same precautions if vomiting into the toilet.
- Wash your hands with soap and water after using the toilet.
- If any body fluids or waste contacted your skin, wash the area with soap and water.

#### ***For the family and caregivers of people taking anticancer medication:***

Keep pets away from the toilet that is being used by the person taking anticancer medication. Wear 2 pairs of gloves when:

- Cleaning the toilet
- Cleaning urine, stool or vomit
- Changing diapers and incontinence pads

- Emptying and cleaning out a container with vomit
  1. Carefully empty the container into the toilet to avoid spilling or splashing.
  2. Flush with the lid closed.
  3. Wash out the container with hot, soapy water.

Keep any soiled laundry separate from regular laundry. This includes clothes, linens and towels that come in contact with anticancer medication or bodily fluids. Wash it right after contact with soap and warm or hot water.

After using gloves:

- Remove the gloves by carefully pulling them off inside out, starting at your wrist. This can keep fluid or waste on the gloves from touching your skin.
- Put soiled gloves in the trash. Then wash your bare hands again. This can keep contaminated waste from getting on your skin.
- Wash your bare hands again to make sure they are free of contact with contaminated waste.

## Sexual contact precautions

Some anticancer medication may also be found in semen, vaginal fluid and saliva.

**Please remember to use the following precautions to protect your partner for 7 days after treatment.**

- Use condoms and/or dental dams during sex for all types of sexual intercourse, including oral sex.

## Family safety

Physical contact with your loved ones is safe. Your healthcare team will tell you if your treatment requires you to avoid close contact with others.

- Hugging and kissing is safe. This includes family, friends, pregnant women and children.
- If possible, pregnant women should not clean up spills or have contact with soiled items.