IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION ABOUT EXPERIMENTAL ORAL CANCER DRUGS

Pills may seem harmless; however, experimental oral cancer drugs may be just as dangerous as chemotherapy if not handled carefully. Below are some tips for safe handling for you and your caretaker/family.

✓ Pills should stay in their original package until you are ready to take them.
✓ Proper storage depends on the study. Ask your study coordinator how to store the pills (i.e. refrigerate, cool/dry place etc.)
✓ Ensure the medication you are taking is not expired.
✓ DO NOT remove or tear the prescription label from the bottle or packaging. The label contains important information pertaining to the study.
✓ DO NOT allow the pills to drop onto countertops/tabletops; if they do, clean the area well to avoid contact with any possible residue/powder.
✓ Because small amounts of the drug may be in waste such as stool, urine, vomit and/or blood, caution must be used when handling soiled objects (linen, toilet seat etc.).
  o wash separately from other laundry
  o after using the toilet, close the toilet lid prior to flushing; if you have a low pressure toilet, double flush to ensure contents are gone. Wipe any splashes with disinfectant
  o if caretakers have contact with your body wastes, they should wear disposable gloves
✓ When possible, handle the pills yourself.
✓ Wash your hands before and after taking your pills.
✓ Take the pills from a cup, the bottle cap, or wear gloves when handling.
✓ DO NOT crush/break/split/chew your pills.
✓ If you skip/miss a dose or take an extra dose by mistake, call the doctor right away.
✓ Bring back all unused medication to the study coordinator at your next visit.
✓ If a caretaker is giving you your pills:
  o they should wash their hands before giving you your pills
  o they should wear disposable gloves when handling pills
  o medication should be placed in a cup/spoon for you to take
  o if you/caretaker comes into contact with the drug, wash your hands well with soap and water if you/caretaker develops a rash, call the doctor

*A pregnant caretaker should NOT handle oral chemotherapy*
*Keep pills out of reach of children and pets*

For safe disposal at a kiosk please see:
https://www.walgreens.com/topic/pharmacy/safe-medication-disposal.jsp

Notes: (please include specifics about safe handling not included above as per study protocol):

Reference: Oncology Nursing Society Oral Chemotherapy Guide https://www.onsoralchemoguide.com/#/NEXT/oct003