

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION ABOUT ORAL CANCER DRUGS

Pills may seem harmless; however, 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.

- ✓ Oral chemotherapy pills should stay in their original package until you are ready to take them.
- ✓ Storage depends on the manufacturer; please ask your doctor or see manufacturer insert for proper storage (i.e. refrigerate; cool/dry place).
- ✓ Ensure the medication you are taking is not expired.
- ✓ 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.).
 - wash separately from other laundry
 - 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
 - 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.
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- ✓ DO NOT dispose of extra pills in the trash, toilet or sink. Please ask your doctor if they take back leftover medication, or you can call the local health department to ask where to dispose of leftover oral chemotherapy.
- ✓ You may throw empty pill bottles in the trash; DO NOT recycle them.
- ✓ If a caretaker is giving you your pills:
 - they should wash their hands before giving you your pills
 - they should wear disposable gloves when handling pills
 - medication should be placed in a cup/spoon for you to take
 - 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>

