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.
- 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