

IREDELL HEALTH SYSTEM

Handling Hazardous Drug Spills	
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P&T Committee	Date: 04/2020

Purpose: To provide appropriate measures for employees to safely contain and clean spills of hazardous drugs in order to protect against health risks of these agents.

Policy:

- All spills are cleaned up immediately by pharmacy or nursing staff trained in safe handling procedures.
- Spill kits are located on 1 North, Dialysis, Infusion Care Center, Pharmacy (2 kits) and PACU. They are used to clean up spills greater than 20 mL.
- Personnel qualified to clean up a spill will be available at all times.
- Spills will be reported immediately to the departmental supervisor and the Administrative Nurse Supervisor.
- Personnel who handle hazardous drugs will be trained in spills management appropriate to their work responsibilities prior to handling or preparing these drugs. Demonstration of competence will be required annually and will be documented in employees' personnel files. See *Hazardous Drug Training* policy and *Hazard Communication Program*.
- All items contaminated by a spill, and the materials and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) used to manage it, will be disposed of as hazardous waste in containers labeled for RCRA (Resource Conservation and Recovery Act) Waste. See *Hazardous Drug and Waste Disposal* policy and the Pharmaceutical Waste Program.
- Pharmacy personnel will inspect spill kit locations monthly for presence of kit and completeness.
- Management of spills of non-antineoplastic agents is addressed in the Assessment of Risk document.

Procedure:

Once a spill has occurred, the size and scope of the spill will be assessed. Without leaving the area of the spill, the employee who first observes the spill will notify pharmacy or nursing staff trained in safe handling procedures.

A. Small Spills (20 mL or less)

- Wear double chemo-rated gloves to clean up small spills on furniture or the floor.
- Use dry paper towels to absorb the spill.
- Wash the area with a deactivating and decontaminating agent, such as sodium hypochlorite, and a disinfectant, such as Virex.
- Place all materials used for containment and cleanup in a disposal container labeled for RCRA Hazardous Waste.

B. Large Spills (greater than 20 mL)

- Place sign to limit access to spill area and assist with traffic control until the cleanup is complete.
- Assess the exposure of any individual involved, and isolate the individual from the spill.
- If the individual's clothing or skin has made contact with the hazardous agent, immediately remove the contaminated clothing and wash the skin with soap and water.

- Notify the Administrative Nursing Supervisor of the spill and arrange for evaluation of anyone exposed during the spill or cleanup or with skin or eye contact with hazardous drugs. See section below for “Immediate Treatment for Direct Skin or Eye Contact with Hazardous Drugs.”
- Evacuate patients and personnel not involved in spill cleanup from the area.
- Obtain spill kit and follow its instructions for cleanup.
- Spills originating from chest or waist height can cause droplets to spread several feet from the source. Evaluate the extent of the spread of any droplets from the spill by moving away and checking under beds, carts, and tables, using a good light source to ensure the entire spill is cleaned.
- Avoid touching any other parts of the environment during spill cleanup, as gloves will likely be contaminated.
- Place all materials used for containment and cleanup in a disposal container labeled for RCRA Hazardous Waste (black).
- After handling and disposal of hazardous drugs, carefully remove all PPE according to instructions in spill kit.
- Clean reusable items contaminated by hazardous drugs following the previous steps. Wear PPE during cleaning, and dispose of it according to instructions in spill kit.
- After the spill has been initially decontaminated, have the area cleaned by environmental services personnel trained in safe handling procedures.
- Complete an online incident report.
- Report spills larger than 20mL to the Employee Health Nurse.

C. Spills in a Containment Primary Engineering Control (C-PEC)

- Clean spill immediately.
- Obtain a spill kit and follow its instructions for cleanup if the spill cannot be easily contained with materials such as wipes that are readily available.
- Thoroughly clean and decontaminate the C-PEC by following the procedures outlined in the *Deactivation, Decontamination, Cleaning and Disinfection of Negative-Pressure Buffer Room* policy.
- Clean and decontaminate the drain spillage trough located under the Compounding Aseptic Containment Isolator (CACI). See *Deactivation, Decontamination, Cleaning and Disinfection of Negative-Pressure Buffer Room* policy.
- Place all materials used for cleanup and containment in disposal container labeled for RCRA Hazardous Waste.
- Remove all PPE carefully according to instructions in spill kit.
- Put all disposable PPE in container labeled for RCRA Hazardous Waste.
- Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water.
- If the spill results in liquid being introduced onto the HEPA filter, or if powdered aerosol contaminates the “clean side” of the HEPA filter, suspend use of the C-PEC until the equipment has been decontaminated and the HEPA filter replaced.
- After the spill has been initially decontaminated, have the area cleaned by environmental services personnel trained in safe handling procedures.
- Complete an online incident report.
- Report spills larger than 20 mL to the Employee Health Nurse.

D. Immediate Treatment for Direct Skin or Eye Contact with Hazardous Drugs

- Refer to the “Emergency Eye Wash Stations” policy for locations of eye wash stations.
- Immediately remove contaminated clothing.
- If eyes are affected, flush with water or isotonic eyewash for at least 15 minutes at an eyewash station.

- Clean affected skin with soap (not a disinfectant cleanser) and water. Rinse thoroughly.
- Review any applicable Safety Data Sheets.
- Notify Administrative Nursing Supervisor and Employee Health Nurse.
- Obtain medical attention.
- Document exposure in online incident reporting system.

E. Reporting Spills

- Staff managing any spill will notify their departmental supervisor and the Administrative Nursing Supervisor and will document the spill through the online incident reporting system.
- Staff managing spills larger than 20 mL will report them to the Employee Health Nurse.
- Staff finding an oil or chemical spill will notify the proper authorities within 12 hours of any accidental oil or chemical releases into the environment that exceed threshold reporting quantities. See the *Reporting Chemical Spills* policy for complete procedure details.

Contents of Spill Kit – minimum absorption capacity 1628 grams

- 2 pairs of chemo-rated gloves, latex-free
- 1 chemo-rated gown
- 1 pair safety goggles, wrap-around
- 1 N95 respirator mask
- 3 absorbent towels
- 2 waste bags
- 1 pair shoe coverings
- 1 caution sign
- 1 scoop and brush
- 2 spill control pillows
- Exposure Report Form
- 6 labels “Caution Chemotherapy Waste,” “Drug Spill”

INITIAL EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/2004

DATES REVISIONS EFFECTIVE: 10/2010, 05/2020

DATES REVIEWED (no changes): 04/2021