CYTOTOXIC ONE FACT SHEET

Cytotoxic drugs and related waste are hazardous substances
If control measures are not used, workers may be at risk of adverse health outcomes

What are Cytotoxic Drugs?
- Substances that kill cells
- Used to treat:
  - Cancer
  - Rheumatoid Arthritis
  - Multiple sclerosis
  - Psoriasis
  - Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE)
  - Ophthalmology Conditions
- Cytotoxic drugs are:
  - Carcinogenic
  - Mutagenic
  - Teratogenic

How might I be exposed?
- Inhalation
- Ingestion
- Dermal absorption
- Mucostral absorption
- Percutaneous injury

How do I recognise Cytotoxics at my facility?
- Containers are:
  - Purple in colour
  - White label with a symbol of a cell in telophase
  - Labelled as ‘Cytotoxic’
  - Purple stickers in medical record, on contaminated IV Lines, drainage bags and pathology specimens

What is Cytotoxic Waste?
Cytotoxic contaminated body waste:
- Urine
- Bowel Motions
- Vomit
- Bile
- Fluids drained from body cavities

Requires staff to wear PPE for 7 days after cytotoxic administration when handling body waste

Cytotoxic waste includes:
- Incontinence aids, ostomy bags & disposable nappies/pads

- Linen or clothing that is contaminated with cytotoxic drugs or body waste
- Bedding that is contaminated and is unable to be cleaned
- Materials/equipment used in preparation, transport, administration, & disposal of cytotoxic drugs eg. Disposable medicine cups, IV lines
- Pathology specimens that contain cytotoxic contaminated body waste

PPE to be worn when handling cytotoxic waste and cytotoxic drugs regardless of dose or route
- Impermeable gown with closed front, long sleeves and elastic cuffs
- 1 x pair of purpose manufactured gloves or 2 x pairs of powder-free latex gloves pulled over gown cuffs
- Class P2 (N95) Respiratory Protective Equipment
- Protective Eyewear (Goggles or safety spectacles with side shields as a minimum)

How do I decrease my risk of exposure?
- Eliminate dangerous work practices e.g. all cytotoxic drugs must be prepared in pharmacy
- Substitute hazardous work processes e.g. use needleless access systems
- Use barriers & technology to prevent exposure e.g. use a Cytotoxic Drug Safety Cabinet for drug preparation
- Use hospital policies, Standard Operating Procedures, training, signs and labels
- Use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

What do I do if I am personally exposed?
- Clean contaminated skin with soap and copious amounts of water for at least 15 minutes (shower if necessary)
- Irrigate contaminated eye, mouth, and/or nose with normal saline for at least 15 minutes
- Manage contaminated clothing as per hospital policy
- Report to - Manager, Workplace Health & Safety
- Complete a Workplace Incident Report Form
- Follow hospital policy and procedure for management and follow up

What do I do to manage a cytotoxic spill?
- Stay with the spill and get help
- Access a Hazardous Drugs Spill Kit
- If trained, decontaminate the spill by following the hospital policy
- Complete PRIME