

# Personal Protective Equipment

**Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is required when administering cytotoxic drugs, providing personal care to a patient taking a cytotoxic drug and handling cytotoxic waste.**

**Thorough hand washing, with soap and water, is required before donning PPE and immediately after removing.**

**When handling an oral cytotoxic agent and cytotoxic waste, the minimum requirement is to wear proper gloves and to have proper disposal containers for soiled waste and materials.**

- **Gloves**

- Disposable powder-free non-latex gloves designed and validated for chemotherapy administration (e.g. Nitrile glove)
- Wash hands thoroughly, with soap and water, before donning gloves and immediately after removing gloves.
- Gloves must be changed regularly, at least every 30 minutes, or immediately if they are torn, punctured or contaminated.
- Gloves must be changed between each patient.

- **Disposal Containers**

- All cytotoxic drug waste must be separated from general waste.
- Clearly labeled cytotoxic waste receptacles must be kept in all areas where cytotoxic drugs are administered.
- Leak-proof, puncture proof sharps containers that clearly and visibly display the cytotoxic hazard symbol are required for disposal of contaminated administration equipment such as needles, syringes, glass bottles and intravenous catheters, bags and tubing.
- Non-sharp closed-lid waste containers lined with double plastic bags that clearly and visibly display the cytotoxic hazard symbol are required for disposal of contaminated non-breakable materials such as disposable PPE, dressings, gauzes or ostomy equipment.
- When full, the sharps and non-sharp containers are disposed by housekeeping as cytotoxic waste, according to DHA policies.

**If you are concerned about aerosolization, splashing when cleaning a spill or when performing personal care or handling cytotoxic waste you may also want to consider utilizing the following PPE:**

- **Gowns**

- A long sleeved, back closure, water/drug repellent, disposable protective gown with solid front and tight fitting cuffs (elastic or knit)
- The gown is to be discarded at least once daily or if soiled or torn during administration/handling.
- The gown is not to be worn outside the chemotherapy administration area except when managing a chemotherapy spill or disposing of cytotoxic waste.

- **Masks**

- Properly fitted masks must be used when there is a risk of exposure to an uncontained amount of cytotoxic agent or when there is risk of aerosolization of cytotoxic drugs (N95 masks meeting NIOSH respiratory protection standards).

- **Goggles**

- Protective eyewear (i.e. safety glasses with side shields) must be used during cleaning procedures or when there is a risk of aerosolization of cytotoxic drugs and during the clean up of any spill.
- If there is any risk of splashing, masks with face shields should be worn.

### **Spill Kits**

A spill kit for managing a cytotoxic spill should include (but may not be limited to):

- 2 pairs disposable non-latex chemotherapy gloves- large size
- Low permeability disposable gown and shoe covers
- Safety glasses, splash goggles or face shield
- N95 Respirator mask (unless included in face shield)
- Absorbent plastic backed pads (sufficient to absorb a spill of up to 1000mL)
- Disposable towels for absorbing and cleaning liquid spills
- 2 plastic cytotoxic waste bags
- Cleaning solution for cleaning and decontamination of area
- Instructions on the management of a cytotoxic chemotherapy spill.

Warning signs to alert other staff to the hazard and isolate the area of the spill