

## Frequently asked questions

**Q: Is it safe for my family, friends and pets to have contact with me during my chemotherapy treatment?**

A: Yes. Socializing, sharing meals, etc. are safe, but please discuss risks from physical contact with your nurse or doctor.

**Q: Can my family use the same toilet as I do?**

A: Yes, as long as waste is cleaned from all surfaces and the toilet is flushed, with the lid closed, twice after each use.

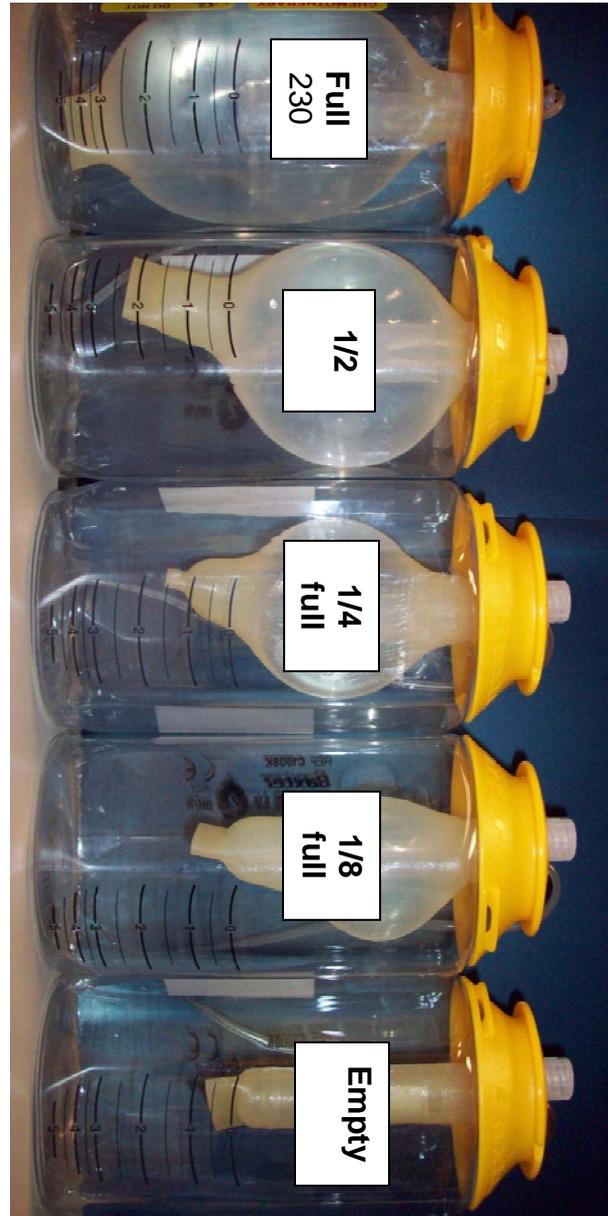
**Q: Is it safe to dispose of chemo in the household garbage?**

A: NO. Chemotherapy waste is considered hazardous and should be sealed in a plastic bag and brought to the Cancer Centre for disposal

**Q: Can I travel with my chemotherapy?**

A: Yes. Traveling is not a problem unless the chemotherapy requires special storage. Check with your nurse or doctor for instructions.

Picture showing different chemotherapy pump volumes



## Contact information

If you have any questions or concerns **about your home chemotherapy**, please call:

Monday - Friday  
8:00 am—4:00 pm  
705-728-9090 x43565  
(Chemotherapy Reception)

After-hours & weekends  
705-728-9090 x43311  
(Cancer Inpatient Unit)

Simcoe Muskoka Regional  
Cancer Program  
201 Georgian Drive  
Barrie, ON  
L4M 6M2  
705-728-9090 x43333

[www.rvh.on.ca](http://www.rvh.on.ca)

RVH-3327 Last updated April 2013



CHEMOTHERAPY  
SYMPTOM  
MANAGEMENT

## For Patients Receiving Chemotherapy At Home

### “Baby Bottle Chemo”

#### Safety Information



**In this pamphlet you will learn about:**

- How to protect you and your family from chemotherapy spills
- How to use the chemotherapy spill kit
- Answers to your frequently asked questions



## ***How to protect yourself and your family from chemotherapy***

Chemotherapy is a cytotoxic medication, which means that it is poisonous to cells. It is important to take precautions to protect yourself and your family.

### **Body Waste**

- Urine, feces, vomit, blood and sperm will contain chemotherapy for several days.
- After toilet use, flush 2 times with lid closed.
- A condom should be used during sexual activity.
- Wash hands well with soap and water after contact with any body wastes.
- Clean any surfaces exposed to body waste with soap and water while wearing gloves.

### **Skin Care**

- If chemotherapy is spilled on your skin, immediately wash the area with soap and water.
- If redness lasts more than 1 hour or irritation occurs, contact your doctor.

### **Eye Care**

- If chemotherapy is splashed in your eyes, flush with cool water for 10 to 15 minutes and contact your doctor.

### **Laundry**

- If clothing becomes soiled with chemotherapy, wear gloves to avoid skin contact and place items in washing machine to wash normally.
- Do not wash soiled clothing with other clothes.
- If you do not have a washing machine, place clothing in a sealed plastic bag until you are able to wash.

## ***What to do when you have a chemotherapy spill***

You will be provided with a 'Chemotherapy Spill Kit' which will allow you to safely clean up the chemotherapy if a leak or spill occurs.

If you have a chemotherapy leak or spill:

1. **Clamp your line using the clamp attached** (just pinch the clamp closed). **If you need help, call the Cancer Centre (see step 8)**
2. Open spill kit
3. Put on 2 pairs of gloves
4. Use the blue pads to absorb the chemotherapy
5. Clean the area thoroughly with soap and water 3 times using paper towel or a disposable cloth
6. Dispose of all materials, including the gloves, in a sealed, plastic bag
7. Place the biohazard sticker from the kit on the outside of the bag

### **8. Call the Cancer Centre for further instructions**

- During the hours of Monday to Friday 8:00 pm to 4:00 pm, call 705-728-9090, x43565 (Chemotherapy Reception)
- After hours, call 705-728-9090, x43311 (Cancer Inpatient Unit)

9. You will need to **come to the Cancer Centre as soon as possible** so that we can check your line.
10. Store the bag in a safe area and out of the reach of children and pets.
11. Bring the bag to the Chemotherapy Unit on Level 3 for proper disposal **as soon as possible**.