

## Going home with an IV cancer drug infusion pump - what to do if the IV cancer drug leaks or spills:

- Get a *spill kit* from your home care nursing agency.
- Quickly close the clamp on the line. Place it in a Ziploc bag.
- DO NOT reconnect your IV line if it has come apart.
- **Call the home care nursing agency right away to have the nurse come and take care of your IV line.**

### Clean up the spill

- Put on disposable gloves.
- Open spill kit.
- Follow the instructions from the spill kit to clean up the spill.
- Clean the spill area with soap and water three times using paper towel. Use new soapy water and paper towel each time.
- Place all waste including gloves in the bag from the spill kit.
- Wash your hands with soap and water.

### After your spill is cleaned up

- Call the cancer center to let your health care team know about the chemotherapy spill: **519-749-4300 ext. 4380**
- Take the bag from the spill kit that contains the contents of the spill to the cancer centre or community clinic to be thrown away.



**Grand River Regional Cancer Centre**  
835 King Street West, Kitchener, ON  
[www.grhosp.on.ca/CancerProgram](http://www.grhosp.on.ca/CancerProgram)



Waterloo Wellington  
Regional Cancer Program  
in partnership with Cancer Care Ontario



## For Patients Getting Intravenous (IV) Cancer Drugs

What you need to know

## Why is safety important?

Intravenous (IV) cancer drugs are a way of treating cancer by flowing these drugs straight into your veins. Cancer drugs kill cancer cells, but can also damage normal cells.

This pamphlet will instruct you how to:

- Keep you and others safe when handling your body fluids
- How to clean up spills if you are getting IV cancer drugs at home

## Supplies you will need to clean up body fluids or IV cancer drug spills:

- Nitrile gloves (disposable) - available at your pharmacy
- Paper towels
- Sealed plastic bags (Ziploc bags)
- Dish soap and water
- A bucket
- A plastic mattress cover to protect your mattress

## How to handle body fluids while on IV cancer drugs:

- IV cancer drugs stay in your body fluids for 48 hours.
- During this time your urine (pee), bowel movements (poo), vomit, blood, vaginal fluids and sperm contains cancer drugs.
- Store garbage that contains body fluids in a safe place away from pets and children.

Pregnant women, or women who are breastfeeding should not handle body fluids from someone who is getting IV cancer drug or clean up IV cancer drug spills. Cancer drugs may cause birth defects, and can be passed through breast milk to babies.

## Follow the steps below when cleaning up body fluids:

- Wear gloves and use paper towels. Throw away after use.
- After cleaning, wash your hands with soap and water.
- Flush body fluids down the toilet. Flush a second time.

How to Cleanup Different Body Fluids at Home	
<b>Cleaning up spills of body fluid</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wash surfaces with soap and water</li><li>• Put used paper towel in a plastic bag and tie it up</li><li>• Put this bag inside another plastic bag and tie that up (called 'double bagging')</li><li>• <b>Throw the bags in your home garbage</b></li></ul>
<b>Getting rid of other body fluids</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 'Double bag' any incontinence pads, disposable briefs, catheter bags or stoma bags</li><li>• <b>Throw the bag in your home garbage</b></li><li>• Wash bedpan or urinal with soapy water</li></ul>
<b>Washing clothing or bedding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wash any clothing or bedding right away</li><li>• Wash them 2 times in hot, soapy water</li><li>• Do not wash with other clothes or laundry</li></ul>
<b>Vomiting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If you use a bowl, empty it into the toilet</li><li>• Wash the bowl with soap and water</li></ul>
<b>Going to the toilet</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sit down to use the toilet</li><li>• Close the lid when you flush</li></ul>
<b>Having sex</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use a condom to protect your partner</li></ul>
<small>eviQ. (2016). Chemotherapy Safety at Home [Pamphlet]. Retrieved from <a href="https://www.eviq.org.au/patients-and-carers/patient-information-sheets/3095-chemotherapy-safety-at-home">https://www.eviq.org.au/patients-and-carers/patient-information-sheets/3095-chemotherapy-safety-at-home</a></small>	

During cancer treatment you and your partner may have to do things differently or not have sex for a period of time. Talk to your health care team about whether it is safe to have sex.