



Policy Name Safe Handling & Administration of Oral Cytotoxic Drugs: Safe Handling of Human Waste of Residents on Cytotoxic Medications	Policy Number: 0249
	Effective Date: September 19, 2012
Approved By: Management Committee	Date Revised:
Classification: Pain and Symptom Management	Page No: Page 1 of 3

POLICY:

The Salvation Army Agapé Hospice is committed to safe medication administration and strives to minimize staff exposure to cytotoxic medication both during administration and in dealing with human excreta. This Nursing Policy outlines the safe handling, administration and disposal of cytotoxic medication. At Agapé Hospice only oral (pill form) cytotoxic medication will be administered. All liquid/IV forms of cytotoxic medication will not be given at Agapé Hospice. Registered Nurses(RN) must be aware of Residents who are taking cytotoxic medication, document this in the care plan and on the report board and inform other care providers to be aware of precautions required when dealing with human waste.

DEFINITIONS:

Hazardous Drugs: Drugs that are known to be a human mutagen, carcinogen, teratogen, reproductive toxicant or actively toxic to an organ system. These drugs are also known as bio hazardous or cytotoxic drugs. All antineoplastic drugs are hazardous drugs.

Antineoplastic Drugs: Hazardous Drugs that are used to inhibit or prevent the growth and or spread of malignant cells or neoplasms. Some antineoplastic drugs can be used at reduced doses to treat non-malignant conditions, such as rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis etc. Antineoplastic drugs are also known as cytotoxic drugs and are commonly referred to as chemotherapy.

Contaminated Material: Contaminated Material is any substance that has been in direct contact with a hazardous drug including clothing, gloves, medication, administration sets, etc. This also includes the excreta of a Resident post administration.

Cytotoxic Drugs: Drugs that are directly toxic to cells, inhibiting or preventing their reproduction and or growth. Antineoplastic drugs are cytotoxic and required identification as such.

Handling: Any activity where a hazardous drug or its container is in the contact with individual, including transportation, preparation, administration, storage, waste disposal, or clean up.



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Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

Any staff member dealing with human waste from a Resident, who is presently on or who has in the last 72 hours taken an oral cytotoxic drug, will be required to use appropriate PPE and due caution when disposing of the human waste. PPE includes but is not limited to:

- Disposable gloves
- Goggles in any circumstances that might produce a splash
- Yellow gowns to protect uniforms/clothing

Any RN preparing oral cytotoxic drugs for administration to a Resident must wear double gloves while handling that cytotoxic drug.

Points of Emphasis:

Proper education/reporting of any Resident who is presently on or who in the last 72 hours has taken cytotoxic drugs is vital for all staff members and family members who chose to participate in personal care. Once a Resident has been identified as taking cytotoxic drugs this must be listed on the care plan and on the report board, and RN will label medication box indicating it contains a cytotoxic drug. RN staff will communicate to Resident Attendants and family members who participate in personal care what precautions must be taken when handling human waste.

PROCEDURE:

POURING AND ADMINISTERING CYTOTOXIC DRUGS (RN ONLY)

1. Don double gloves and pour cytotoxic drug for the right Resident. (RN will follow the seven rights of patient medication administration – right patient, right drug, right dose, right time, right route, right reason and right documentation)
2. Remove gloves and wash hands
3. Double check and label medication cup containing cytotoxic drug.
4. If a RN has to touch a cytotoxic drug during administration, that RN will don double gloves before touching the cytotoxic drug.

HANDLING HUMAN WASTE POST CYTOTOXIC DRUG ADMINISTRATION (POST UP TO 72 HOURS FOR ALL STAFF WHO GIVE PERSONAL CARE)

1. RN to post cytotoxic sign in bathroom of Residents on cytotoxic medications.
2. All staff and family members will double glove when handling all human waste (emesis, stool, urine, etc.).
3. All staff and family members will don gloves and masks if there is a risk of splashes of body fluids on skin.
4. Human waste post cytotoxic drug will be disposed of in the toilet, or in garbage bags which are tied up and put into plastic garbage pails.



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REFERENCES:

Alberta Health Services Policy: HAZARDOUS DRUGS: SAFE HANDLING, ADMINISTRATION AND DISPOSAL OF, January 2005.