



# College of Veterinary Medicine Policies and Procedures

Subject: Chemotherapy Drugs

Section: Pharmacy

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## CHEMOTHERAPY DRUGS

Hazardous drugs are drugs identified to be carcinogenic, teratogenic, genotoxic or cause serious organ or other toxic manifestation at low doses in experimental animals or treated patients. Most chemotherapy drugs are considered hazardous. This policy applies to use of all hazardous drugs in the hospital by all services for any reason (not just the oncology service). The purpose of this policy is to ensure patient and staff safety in the process of preparation and administration of chemotherapy.

Only those personnel who have been trained in the safe handling and preparation of cytotoxic drugs are allowed to receive, prepare, or in any other way handle cytotoxic drugs in the Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Individuals who are pregnant, trying to conceive or father a child, or breastfeeding should avoid handling hazardous medications (chemotherapy drugs) and excrements (urine, feces, and vomitus) of animals who have received these medications until 48 hours after the last dose.

### 1. Receipt and Storage of Chemotherapy Drugs:

- a) Upon receipt, all hazardous drug packages will be unpacked only by a designated Pharmacy Technician.
- b) Gloves will be worn when unpacking the drugs.
- c) Packages will be inspected for damage or contamination and wiped with 70% isopropyl alcohol.
- d) Drugs will be stored in a separate area designated to cytotoxic drugs.
- e) Refrigerated drugs will be stored in the door of the refrigerator away from the regular inventory.

### 2. Preparation of Chemotherapy:

- a) All chemo/cytotoxic drugs will be mixed in a Biological Safety Cabinet (BSC) that is disinfected with 70% alcohol daily (prior to the beginning of the day's operations), and routinely during compounding.
- b) The BSC will be decontaminated with SurfaceSafe at the end of each workday and after any spill in the BSC during compounding. The BSC may be turned off at the end of the workday and turned back on in the morning so long as the following conditions are met:


- (1) Turn on BSC in morning. Allow to run for minimum of 15 minutes BEFORE disinfecting as per above.
  - (2) Following daily decontamination of BSC at end of each workday as per above, allow BSC to run for minimum of 15 minutes BEFORE turning off.
- c) The area under the work tray will be decontaminated with SurfaceSafe at least monthly.
  - d) A plastic-backed absorbent preparation pad may be placed in the hood daily after disinfecting at the beginning of the day's operations. A new pad should be placed after preparation of each batch and should be replaced frequently during extended batch compounding. The pad should be replaced anytime there is a known contamination. Each pad must be discarded in the hazardous waste trash.
  - e) Parenteral chemotherapy will be compounded using stringent aseptic technique.
  - f) The individual compounding chemotherapy will wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
    - (1) Gloves must be powder-free chemotherapy gloves.
    - (2) Gowns must be made of a non-linting, non-absorbing material (such as a polyethylene-coated polypropylene material). Gowns must have long sleeves, a closed front, and elastic or knit closed cuffs. Do not reuse gowns.
      - (a) Gloves must be worn at all times when handling drug packaging, cartons, and vials.
      - (b) Wash hands thoroughly before donning chemotherapy gloves for aseptic chemotherapy preparation and after removing gloves and gown.
      - (c) Two pairs of chemotherapy gloves must be donned and sanitized with 70% alcohol or other appropriate disinfectant before aseptic manipulation. One glove pair is worn under the gown cuff and the second pair is placed over the cuff.
      - (d) Once compounding has been completed, the outer gloves should be carefully removed. The inner glove is used to affix labels and remove prepared chemotherapy from the hood.
      - (e) Gowns must be worn during chemotherapy preparation and administration. Gowns must be removed carefully and discarded as contaminated waste if known contamination occurs.
  - g) The final compounded product will be verified by the Veterinarian or Pharmacist. Two sets of initials are required on the chemotherapy prescription verifying accuracy of admixed product. (For example: admixing technician plus DVM or Pharmacist).
  - h) A label containing the following information will be affixed to the final admixed chemotherapy product:
    - (1) Patient name
    - (2) Species
    - (3) Drug name, concentration, volume
    - (4) Date prepared
    - (5) Expiration date
    - (6) Instructions for administration
    - (7) **Auxiliary labels including "CAUTION: Anti-Neoplastic Material. Handle Properly."**
  - i) The chemotherapy will be placed in a chemotherapy transfer bag and sealed for transportation to the patient area. The drugs will be administered per Animal Health Center Chemotherapy Administration policies.
  - j) Contaminated materials (such as gloves, gowns, syringes, empty vials, and infusion lines) used in the preparation and administration of chemotherapy drugs should be discarded as per Mississippi State University Hazardous Waste Guidance Manual.



### 3. Spill Management

- a) For volumes less than 5ml:
  - i) Remove pets and ask people to leave the area.
  - ii) Don down and chemotherapy gloves (inner and outer pair).
  - iii) Absorb the spill with absorbent gauze pads and dispose of in a biohazard container.
  - iv) Clean are three times with a soap detergent solution followed by water.
  - v) Discard gloves and cleaning materials in hazardous waste container.
  - vi) Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water.
- b) For volumes great than 5ml:
  - i) Seal off area for 1 hour to allow aerosolized particles to settle. Restrict traffic around area to minimize aerosolization and exposure.
  - ii) Don gown and chemotherapy gloves (inner and outer pair).
  - iii) Obtain a chemotherapy spill kit from the Pharmacy. Follow directions provided on chemotherapy spill kit.
  - iv) Clean area three times with a soap detergent solution followed by water.
  - v) Discard gloves and cleaning materials in hazardous waste container.
  - vi) Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water.
- c) For eye contact, flush affected eye with water or isotonic eyewash for a minimum of 15 minutes.
- d) For skin contact, clean affected area with soap and water.
- e) Remove contaminated clothing as soon as possible and launder separately from other laundry.
- f) Notify University Hazardous Waste Officer of all spills.
- g) Contact Poison Control Center (800-222-1222) if there are any questions or concerns about the exposure.

Approved:  9-26-12  
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