



Disposal Of Cytotoxic Therapy Patient Excreta Procedure

Procedure Number

CHC-CYT-002

Version Nos:

4

1. Purpose

This Procedure outlines the process for ensuring that excreta of patients who have received Cytotoxic Therapy are disposed of in a safe and efficient manner.

2. Application

This Procedure is to be followed by all clinical staff throughout the West Coast District Health Board (WCDHB).

3. Definitions

For the purposes of this Procedure:

Cytotoxic medications are taken to mean toxic compounds known to have carcinogenic, mutagenic and/or teratogenic potential.

Oncology Nurse Specialist is an oncology trained nurse who is available to act as a resource for medical and nursing staff regarding the administration and management of Cytotoxic medications.

4. Responsibilities

For the purposes of this Procedure:

all **Clinical Staff** are required to:

- provide cares and treatments as per the requirements of this Procedure
- document all observations and cares and treatments given

5. Resources Required

This Procedure requires:

- i) Gloves and Impermeable Gown

6. Process

- 1.00 Most Cytotoxic medications are primarily eliminated from the patient by renal and faecal excretion. Urine and faeces may be contaminated with either unchanged medication or active metabolites. Vomitus may also be contaminated.
- 1.01 Standard precautions are adopted to minimise exposure to body fluids for the course of the medication excretion time. (usually 48 hours)
- 1.02 When handling excreta nursing staff are to wear surgical double disposable non-sterile gloves and a long sleeved impermeable material gown with cuffed sleeves. Each nurse should have their own gown and this is hung in the sluice room and changed daily or immediately if they become contaminated by Cytotoxic waste.
- 1.03 Patients are to be instructed by nursing staff to flush the toilet after use.
- 1.04 Pans, jugs or potties contaminated by Cytotoxic waste should be sanitised immediately after use, and then undergo a repeat sanitisation cycle. This equipment must be sanitised separately and is to be labeled as "Cytotoxic".



Disposal Of Cytotoxic Therapy Patient Excreta Procedure

Procedure Number
CHC-CYT-002

Version Nos:
4

- 1.05 Contaminated disposable rubbish is to be placed into a purple plastic rubbish bag, sealed well and placed with normal rubbish.

7. Precautions And Considerations

- ➔ Standard precautions are adopted to minimise exposure to body fluids for the course of the medication excretion time
- ➔ When handling excreta nursing staff are to wear surgical double disposable non-sterile gloves and a long sleeved impermeable material gown with cuffed sleeves.
- ➔ Pans, jugs or potties contaminated by Cytotoxic waste should be sanitised immediately after use, and then undergo a repeat sanitisation cycle

8. References

The Cytotoxics Handbook, 1997, 3rd Edition, Radcliffe Medical Press.

Canterbury DHB Policy and Procedure Manual, Christchurch Hospital Vol F Fluid and Medication Management Section 15

9. Related Documents

WCDHB Oncology/Cytotoxic Procedures

Revision History	Version:	4
	Developed By:	Oncology Nurse Specialist
	Authorised By:	Chief Medical Advisor/GM - Operations
	Date Authorised:	December 2004
	Date Last Reviewed:	October 2008
	Date Of Next Review:	October 2010