

SAFE HANDLING OF YOUR ORAL CANCER THERAPIES

You have been prescribed an "oral cancer therapy". It is a medicine you will be taking by mouth for treating your cancer. There are certain special precautions that need to be taken with these medications. The risk of exposure to those handling oral chemotherapy pills is unknown, but skin contact should be avoided. The following information is for your safety and those who are supporting you.

STORAGE

- THE MOST IMPORTANT is to make sure that you store it away from the reach of children or pets. It is a chemotherapy and may cause harm if ingested
- Store away from excess heat and moisture and at room temperature (Your pharmacist will let you know if this is not the case.)
- This means **not** on windowsills, near kitchen sinks, or in bathrooms

HANDLING

- Wash your hands immediately after handling the medication
- Swallow the medication whole
- Do not crush, cut, or chew the medication without checking with an oncology nurse or pharmacist
- If tablet is accidently damaged do not inhale the powder
- If someone is helping you with your medication, try to transfer the medication from the bottle to a medication cup, then to the patient's mouth
- If there is the risk or need to handle the medication, the person assisting should wear gloves. If the medication comes in contact with their skin, have them wash with soap and water
- If using "medisets" or "pill boxes", use a separate set for the oral chemotherapy
- If your caregiver or family member needs to clean up bodily fluids (e.g. urine, stool, emesis)
 they need to wear gloves, there may be active medication up to 7 days after you have
 completed it. They need to wash their hands after removing their gloves.

DISPOSAL

Any unused oral cancer medication should be returned to the medical ambulatory care clinic (MAC) where it can be disposed of in an approved chemotherapy bin. Do **not** put it in the trash or down the sewer system.

Created by I EBPC Team/may be replicated with permission contact Carla Jolley ARNP, MN, AOCN, CHPN jollec@whidbeygen.org Updated 04252011