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Owner Therese Adamowski:
NURSING
SUPERVISOR
(Home Med
Infusion
Pharmacy and
Area Pharmacy
Services
Applicability UMHS Clinical
References Procedure

Pharmacy Services HomeMed Safe Handling of Hazardous Medications in the Home Procedure

Procedure Statement, Purpose and Scope

To establish a procedure for safe handling of hazardous medications in the home.

Definitions

None

Areas of Responsibility

All registered nurses working in the home administering hazardous medications.

Procedure

- A. Adhere to standard precautions
- B. Plastic backed absorbent pads should be placed on all work surfaces.
- C. Adhere to all Hand Hygiene guidelines
- D. Hand Washing with soap and water is required after chemotherapy administration and disposal of any items associated with the chemotherapy.
- E. **Use of Personal Protective Equipment**
 1. Mandatory

- a. Chemotherapy or double nitrile gloves must be worn
 - b. Poly coated gown must be worn.
2. Optional
 - a. Eye protection should be worn if risk of splash is present.
3. **Waste Disposal**
 1. Chemotherapy bags, unused drug, or any equipment (i.e. syringes, cannulas, tubing) should be placed in puncture proof hazardous waste container.
 2. Dispose of hazardous waste generated on Michigan Medicine property per UMHHC-HCS Policy 200.107 Waste Management Plan.
 3. Waste generated in the patient's home is considered household waste and should not be transported by Michigan Medicine staff for disposal at Michigan Medicine facility.

F. Spills

1. All patients receiving chemotherapy at home shall be sent a chemotherapy spill kit with initial delivery and replaced as needed.
2. Chemotherapy spills should be cleaned immediately with the use of gloves, gown, goggles, and a mask, all contained within the spill kit. Plastic backed absorbent pads shall be used to clean the spill and discarded in hazardous waste container. The area of spill should be then cleaned with soap and water. Hard surfaces can be cleaned with household bleach wipes.
3. If a spill occurs on the patients/caregivers clothing or sheets, these articles should be washed separately twice from other articles before adding to regular laundry.

G. Accidental Exposures

1. Remove contaminated gloves or gown immediately and discard within the bag included in the spill kit.
2. Wash skin contaminated with chemotherapy with soap and water.
3. Flood an eye that is accidentally exposed to chemotherapy agent with water for at least 15 minutes. Seek medical attention immediately.
4. Spills and accidental exposures shall be reported to HomeMed and / or Cancer Center clinicians who will provide information or referral for medical evaluation.

H. Patient/Caregiver Education

1. For the first 48 hours after chemotherapy, safe handling guidelines apply to a patient's excretions.
 - a. Instruct Patient/Caregiver to wash hands before and after:
 1. Dealing with chemotherapy
 2. Eating and preparing food.
 3. Using the restroom
 4. Contact with any body fluids.

5. Working with plants and soil.
- b. Instruct Patient/Caregiver about body waste:
 1. Need to wear polyurethane, nitrile, neoprene or latex material gloves when handling urinals, bedpans, emesis basins and changing diapers.
 2. When exposed to any body fluids wash body part with soap and water.
 3. No sexual activity while on chemotherapy precautions.
 4. Need to double bag any clothing or bed linens that are soiled.
 5. Flush human waste down the toilet, flushing twice with the lid down.
 6. At the end of 48 hour period bathroom floor and toilet should be washed.
- c. Instruct Patient/Caregiver about laundry:
 1. Wear gloves when handling soiled laundry
 2. Wash laundry separate from others in household using hot water, soap and bleach, washing twice.
 3. Wash soiled clothes/linens immediately.
- I. Patient and Family members/caregivers shall be taught the dangers of exposure to chemotherapeutic agents, especially if children, pregnant or lactating women are in the home.
- J. **Spill Reporting / follow-Up**
 1. Report the spill to appropriate area Manager and/or Cancer Center Clinician
 2. A Patient Safety Report Form event must be submitted in the event of Patient or external person direct exposure.
 3. A Work Connections Illness, Injury Report Form must be submitted in the event of direct staff exposure.

Summary of Changes

Updated to IPPC approved template.

References

1. [UMHS-HCS 200.101 Environment of Care at Home Care Service](#)
2. [UMHS-HCS 200.107 Waste Management Plan](#)
3. [UMHS-HCS 233.011 HomeMed Order Delivery](#)
4. UMHS - Home Chemotherapy Manual

Exhibits/Attachments

None

Document Approval & Tracking

Item	Contact
Consultant(s)	Adamowski, Therese: NURSING SUPERVISOR (Michigan Visiting Nurses: Post
Committee(s)	
Official Approver	Pharmacy Review
Official Signature	On PolicyStat Approval Workflow

Approval Signatures

Step Description	Approver	Date
DOPS Policy Coordinators	Brett Leja: Regulatory & Compliance Specialist Pharmacist and	12/4/2024
DOPS Policy Coordinators	Scott Ciarkowski: Pharmacy Manager, Quality Improvement & Safety and	12/3/2024
PolicyStat Administrator Review	Olivia Curl: Admin Specialist Inter Health	11/26/2024
PolicyStat Administrator Review	Natalie Plata: Clinical Policy Manager	11/26/2024
Owner Approval	Therese Adamowski: NURSING SUPERVISOR (Michigan Visiting Nurses: Post	11/25/2024

Applicability

UMH Clinical