



Chemotherapy Concerns

It's understandable to be worried about potential risks associated with exposure to chemotherapy while your pet receives treatment. Specific risks to owners are unknown, but some degree of environmental contamination is expected with any hazardous agent.

If your pet is taken to another veterinarian during the course of treatment, please inform them that your pet is receiving chemotherapy. This keeps the new veterinarian informed and gives them the ability to rule out symptoms of chemotherapy.

The information in this flyer provides guidelines to help minimize risk and provide chemotherapy agent education.



If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your physician or the University of Illinois Medication Dispensary at 217-333-5329.

Protective Measures

Safety should be the priority while handling hazardous agents. The following procedures are essential for the health of your pet, family, and self:

- **Use chemotherapy-rated gloves when handling the medication.** Gloves act as a barrier between your skin and the hazardous materials.
- **Avoid contact with your eyes, ears, nose, mouth, and skin while handling the toxic agent.** Reducing spread to high-risk areas will prevent any further contamination.
- **Wash your hands after removing used gloves.** This guarantees your hands are free from any contamination following medication administration.
- **Do not store the medicine near food, children, or other medicines.** This helps reduce cross-contamination and poisoning.
- **Do not split or crush pills and capsules.** Hazardous materials can contaminate surfaces and spread easily through touch, ingestion, or inhalation.
- **Confirm your pet swallows the medication.** If your pet refuses to ingest the medication, you can hide it in a treat or pill pocket.
- **Return empty vials or syringes to your clinic for proper disposal.** It is dangerous to discard hazardous materials with other waste. This can lead to toxic cross-contamination. Clinics have hazardous waste bins to properly dispose of used syringes and vials.



Handling Bodily Fluids

Body fluids from your pet - including saliva, urine, feces, and vomit - can contain small traces of medication after treatment. This is especially important to keep in mind when it comes to handling hazardous or chemotherapy medication. Closely adhere to the following recommendations for as long as seven days after the last dose of oral chemotherapy medication:

- Do not allow your pet to urinate or defecate in areas where children play.
- If your pet urinates, defecates, or vomits in the house, use gloves and a 10% bleach solution to clean the area.
- Wash soiled bedding or clothing twice in hot water.
- Pregnant women should avoid handling urine or feces, even with gloves.

VETERINARY TEACHING HOSPITAL

Large Animal Clinic

Emergency, specialty, and primary care for horses and farm animals
1102 W. Hazelwood Drive, Urbana
(217) 333-2000

Small Animal Clinic

Emergency and specialty services for small companion animals
1008 W. Hazelwood Drive, Urbana
(217) 333-5300

South Clinic

Health and wellness care for dogs, cats, and zoological pets
2100 Goodwin Avenue, Urbana
(217) 244-2555

Midwest Equine

Equine-only practice that provides equine veterinary and farrier services
20844 Cumberland Road, Farmer City
(309) 928-2127