

# Safe Handling of Hazardous Drugs- Brachytherapy PROCEDURE

## Summary of Changes

	NEW	Previous
BC Cancer		

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## 1. Introduction

Blood and body fluids are considered cytotoxic for 48 hours post systemic therapy treatment. Patients who receive brachytherapy for treatment of gynecological cancer may be dual modality. As a result, safe handling precautions must be used when disposing of urine, drainage bags, tubes, etc. for these patients intra and post-procedure in the brachytherapy program.

### 1.1. Focus

- To provide a process for safe handling of bodily fluids in patients on active systemic therapy treatment.

### 1.2. Health Organization Site Applicability

- This procedure applies to BC Cancer- Kelowna Brachytherapy program

### 1.3. Directives

- This procedure applies to all staff at BC Cancer who participate in the care of gyne patients on active systemic treatment undergoing brachytherapy procedures
- Brachytherapy staff who participate in the direct care of gyne patients must complete additional training and orientation on safe handling of hazardous drugs prior to handling blood/body fluids
- Brachytherapy staff involved in the direct care of gyne patients must review the following policies and resources:
  - [V-10 Hazardous Drug Safe Handling](#) ○ [V-20 Employee Health: Management of Risks Related to Hazardous Drugs](#) ○ [V-30 Spill Management of Hazardous Drugs](#) ○ [BC Cancer Hazardous Drug List](#)

### 1.4. Equipment and Supplies

- Refer to policy [V-10 Hazardous Drug Safe Handling](#) and [V-30 Spill Management of Hazardous Drugs](#) for a complete list of recommended personal protective equipment and spill management supplies.

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## 2. Procedure

### 2.1. Steps and Rationale

PARR staff disposing of gyne patient's urine:

- Don a chemo gown and double glove
- Drain urine into a disposable Vernacare urinal container
- Weigh the urine to measure output
- Place absorbent in Vernacare urinal per directions, then discard Vernacare urinal into the red chemo Gator bin (located on the floor in the dirty service room)
- Wipe down scale with Kimtech/Caviwipe
- Doff PPE and place in the red chemo Gator bin
- Wash your hands

OR Staff/Radiation Therapist Intra-Procedure:

- Double-glove and gown
- All consumables exposed to blood or body fluids will be disposed in the red chemo Gator bin (i.e. Laryngeal mask airway, endotracheal tube etc.)

OR staff/radiation therapist removal of patient's indwelling catheter:

- Don a chemo gown and double glove
- Place a blue pad under the catheter and move the drainage bag and tubing onto the blue pad.
- Clamp and remove foley catheter
- Wrap the catheter, tubing and drainage bag in the blue pad
- Place the entire apparatus in the red chemo Gator bin
- When Gator is at least half-full, take to chemo dirty-service room, and bring a new bin back to replace the contaminated one.
- Doff PPE and place in the red chemo Gator bin
- Wash your hands

### 2.2. Site Specific Practices

- Gyne belts will not be reused- discard used belt into the Gator after each use.
- All soiled linens go into a yellow biohazard bag and brought to the chemotherapy dirty service room when full

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- When the Gator bin is at least half full, close the lid firmly and take the Gator up to the chemo dirty service room. Obtain a new red chemo Gator bin and place in the dirty service room
- In case of a 'chemo spill' of urine, vomitus, feces, blood, etc., CALL Systemic CNL or CNE for assistance/direction, and notify Manager of Centre Services for facility follow-up

### 2.3. Documentation

- Document as per BC Cancer and discipline-specific policy

## 3. Related Documents and References

### 3.1. Related Documents

- [V-10 Hazardous Drug Safe Handling](#)
- [V-20 Employee Health: Management of Risks Related to Hazardous Drugs](#)
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- [BC Cancer Hazardous Drug List](#)

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