

# ORAL CHEMOTHERAPY EDUCATION



## SAFE HANDLING OF ORAL CHEMOTHERAPY

### How should I handle my drug before I take it?

- Wash your hands before and after touching the drug.
- Only you or a caregiver should handle your chemotherapy. Do not let anyone else touch the drug.
  - If your caregiver handles your drug, he or she should wear gloves.
- Never break, crush, chew, or open your tablets or capsules unless your doctor tells you to do so.

### How should this drug be stored?

- Store your oral chemotherapy in a place in your home that is separate from your other prescription and over-the-counter medicines.
- Store your drug in a place with a controlled temperature that is not in direct sunlight.
- Ensure children and pets cannot reach your pills.
- Read the drug package and any included inserts to learn whether your drug has more storage instructions. For example, some drugs should be kept in a refrigerator.

### What should I do if another person or a pet swallows or is exposed to my drug?

- Keep calm.
- If the skin has been exposed, flush the area with water.
- Call the Poison Control Center immediately at **1-800-222-1222**.

### What should I do with leftover drugs if my treatment is changed or stopped?

- **Do not put chemotherapy drugs in the garbage\* or down the toilet.**
- Store your oral chemotherapy in a safe place until you can return it.
- Bring damaged, unused, or expired drugs to a pharmacist or hospital for disposal.
  - *Remove if not needed:* List any state or local medication disposal or drop boxes. Add the list, website, or phone number if available.

*\*If you need to dispose of oral chemotherapy quickly, follow these instructions:*

- Mix whole pills (do not crush or open) in used coffee grounds or cat litter.
- Place the mixture in a hard plastic container (e.g., empty laundry detergent or bleach bottle) and put the lid on tightly. **Alternatively**, double bag the mixture in plastic storage bags.
- Place the sealed container in your household trash.

**If you have any questions or concerns about your drug, call at xxx-xxx-xxxx.**