

# ORAL CHEMOTHERAPY EDUCATION



National Community Oncology  
Dispensing Association, Inc.  
PASSION FOR PATIENTS



## 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?

- Find a place in your home to store your oral chemotherapy that is separate from your other prescriptions and over-the-counter medicines.
- Store your drug in a place with a controlled temperature that is not in direct sunlight. Be sure children and pets cannot reach your pills.
- Read the drug package and any included papers. Make sure to look for any storage instructions for your drug. Some drugs should be kept in the refrigerator.

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

- Keep calm.
- Flush the area with water, if the skin was exposed.
- 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.
- State or local medication disposal sites or drop boxes are available as below:

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*\*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 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.

### Additional instructions

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