

Hazardous Drugs and Fluids at Home (Group 1 Drugs)

A guide for parents

There are medicines that can be helpful for treating an illness, but can be harmful if it touches your skin. We call these **hazardous drugs**.

I am giving my baby this hazardous drug:

If your baby takes a hazardous drug, their body fluids (such as pee, poop, or vomit) might have some of the medicine in it. These fluids can also be harmful to any who touch it.

Until 48 hours **after** the last dose of the hazardous drug, it is important to protect yourself and others from touching the medicine or these body fluids.

Follow these instructions on how to care for yourself and your baby while they are taking a hazardous drug.

What you will need

- ☐ **Nitrile gloves** – Buy these at any pharmacy or medical supply store.
- ☐ **Medical masks** – Buy these at any pharmacy or medical supply store.
- ☐ **Medicine syringes** – Your pharmacy will give these to you.
- ☐ **'Cytotoxic' waste bin** – A special waste bin for throwing away hazardous items. The hospital gives you one.
- ☐ **Cleaning supplies** – Wipes, paper towel, soap, laundry detergent

How to give the medicine

To prepare and give the medicine:

1. Put on 2 pairs of nitrile gloves.
2. Put on a medical mask – Liquid medicine can splash.
3. Fill the medicine syringe to the correct amount by pulling back on the plunger while the tip is in the liquid.
4. Give your baby the medicine.
5. Keep your gloves on.

How to clean up after giving the medicine

1. With your gloves still on, pull the plunger out of the barrel of the syringe.
2. Hand wash the plunger and the barrel with soap and water.
3. Allow the both parts to air dry.
4. With the gloves on, wash your hands with soap and water.
5. Take the gloves off and throw them away in the cytotoxic waste bin.
6. Wash your hands again with soap and water.
7. Take off your mask by the ear loops with your clean hands. Do not touch the front of the mask.
8. Throw the mask away in the cytotoxic waste bin.
9. Put the medicine away. Keep it in a place away from food, children, and pets.

How to clean up body fluids

Every time you have to touch body fluids or handle items soiled with body fluids (such as diapers, clothing, or bedding):

- Wear 2 pairs of nitrile gloves.
- Change your gloves every 30 minutes or any time you see rips or tears in a glove.
- Wear a medical mask if there is a chance any fluid might splash.

To change, clean, or bathe your baby:

- Use soap and water to wash or clean your baby's skin that has touched any body fluid.
- Throw away soiled disposable items (such as diapers and wipes) in the cytotoxic waste bin.

To clean items:

- Clean all surfaces with soap and water that comes in contact with body fluids.
- Wash soothers with soap and water at least once a day. Remember to sanitize each day.
- Wash bottles with soap and water after each use. Remember to sanitize each day.
- Wash laundry soiled with body fluids in a washing machine or sink.
 - Use regular laundry soap.
 - Do not mix with laundry that is not soiled with body fluids.

After cleaning up:

- Keep the gloves on and wash your hands with soap and water.
- Take the gloves off and throw them away the cytotoxic waste bin.
- Wash your hands again with soap and water.

Common problems

Medicine gets in the eye:

- Rinse the eye with tap water for at least 15 minutes.
- Call your family doctor.

Medicine has expired or no longer needed:

- Return the medicine to the nearest pharmacy.

Cytotoxic waste bin is full:

- Bring the bin to your nearest Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).
- Get a new, empty bin from the NICU.

If you have any questions, you can call either of these numbers:

Fraser Health Virtual Care
1-800-314-0999

10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., 7 days a week
fraserhealth.ca/virtualcare



HealthLinkBC

8-1-1 – Open 24 hours

Available in 130 languages.

For an interpreter, say your language in English.

Wait until an interpreter comes on the phone.

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