

Chemotherapy Spills: Are We Protecting Ourselves?

The Problem:

The incidence of chemotherapy being administered in care areas outside of hematology/oncology has risen substantially over the years. A chemotherapy spill is considered to be a high risk, low frequency event and can happen anytime starting with the mixing of the medication up through the 48 hours post chemotherapy administration. It is known that “Nurses can minimize exposure to hazardous drugs with the use of personal protective equipment and careful technique.” (Oncology Nursing Society). After experiencing a chemotherapy spill in Interventional Radiology, we learned that more extensive education was needed regarding Chemotherapy Spill management.

Aim/Goal

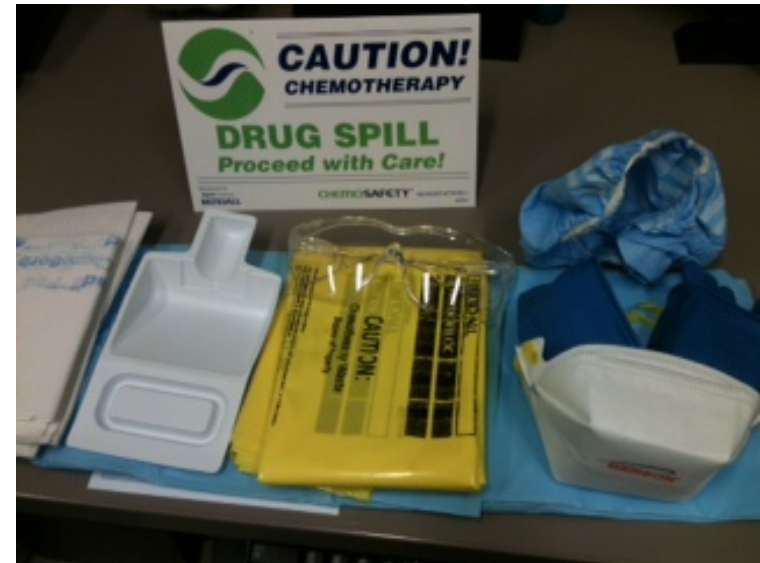
Our goal was to make a visual learning tool that is easily accessible and can be used across all care areas administering chemotherapy.

The Team

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The Interventions

- Organized a multidisciplinary meeting with all departments where chemotherapy is administered including: Hematology/Oncology, Interventional Radiology, PACU, and Labor and Delivery.
- Reached out to colleagues at the Oncology Nurses Society about their standards in regards to cleaning a chemotherapy spill.
- Created a script for a Chemotherapy Spill Video
- Updated Chemotherapy Spill and Safe Handling Policies
- Partnered with Media Services to create Chemotherapy Spill Video



The Results/Progress to Date

A Chemotherapy Spill Video was created in the summer of 2013 and is now an annual requirement on the Hematology/Oncology and Bone Marrow Transplant inpatient units. Positive feedback has been received from clinical staff on both units.

Lessons Learned

Throughout the process of making the video, we identified other considerations for improving practice in regards to chemotherapy precautions and safe handling of hazardous medications.

Next Steps/What Should Happen Next

- The Chemotherapy Spill Video is now available in myPATH for all care areas administering chemotherapy to access and use as an educational tool.
- Continue annual competencies on the Oncology units.
- Continue ongoing work on education for Safe Handling of Hazardous Medications and Chemotherapy Precautions.