

The Importance of Taking and Handling Your Oral Drug Therapy Medications Safely

How should I handle my medication?

- Wash your hands before and after touching your medication.
- Do not allow anyone not involved in your care to handle your medication. Only you or a designated caregiver should touch it.
- If someone else handles your medication, they should wear gloves.
- Never break, crush, chew, or open your tablets or capsules unless otherwise instructed.

How should this medication be stored?

- At home, store this medication separately, away from your other medicines.
- Store your medication in a place that is away from sources of water, direct sunlight and excessive heat, cold or humidity. Be sure children and pets cannot reach your pills.
- Read the medication package and any attached paperwork to see if there are other rules about how to store your medication, such as refrigeration.

What should I do if another person or pet swallows or is exposed to my medication?

- Keep calm.
- Flush the area with water, if the exposure was on the skin.
- Call the Poison Control Center immediately at **1-800-222-1222**.

What should I do with leftover medications if my treatment changes?

- **Do not put chemotherapy medications in the garbage (see below) or down the toilet.**
- Keep your oral chemotherapy stored in a safe place until you can return it.
- Roswell has drug disposal containers available on the 1st floor of the main hospital. They are located just past the ATM on the left.
- New York has *Take Back* programs for the collection of household drugs. Go to the NY Department of Conservation website www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/67720.html and click on "Find a free collection site near you"

**** If there is an urgent need to dispose of your medication and there are no drop off locations near you, follow these instructions:**

- Mix whole pills (do not crush or open) in water and add salt, dirt, ashes, or cat litter. Do not hide them in food.
- Place mixture in a bag, box, or plastic tub that you can seal. Secure the container with strong tape.
- Place the sealed container in your trash as close to trash collection day as possible.

If you have questions or concerns about your medication, please call the GU Center at 716-845-3159.