

# Chemotherapy Bladder Instillation

## What is chemotherapy bladder instillation, and why do I need it?

Chemotherapy [kee-moe-THAIR-uh-pee] bladder instillation [in-stil-LAY-shun] is a treatment for bladder cancer. During treatment, liquid chemotherapy medication is placed into your bladder through a catheter [CATH-eh-ter] (a thin, flexible tube). The medication kills cancer cells on the bladder wall and may prevent or delay their return. The usual treatment course is once a week for 6 weeks.

You should try to hold the medication in your bladder for 1 to 2 hours before urinating (peeing). To help with this, it's a good idea to drink only small amounts of fluid during the 2 hours before treatment. If you take a diuretic [die-you-RET-tk] (water pill), don't take it for 2 hours after treatment.

## Is chemotherapy bladder instillation safe?

Yes. The chemotherapy medications stay in your bladder until you urinate. The medication is placed into your bladder and is not absorbed into other parts of your body. You will not experience the side effects that come on with other forms of chemotherapy, such as hair loss and suppression of your immune (disease-fighting) system. See [page 2](#) for more information on side effects.



## What do I need to do next?

If you have received chemotherapy medication, you and your caregivers need to follow these steps to stay safe:

- 1 For 24 hours (1 full day) after chemotherapy treatment:**
  - **Drink a lot of water** or other fluids to help flush out the medication.
  - **Wear gloves** when handling urine, soiled diapers, or incontinence pads.
  - The first time you urinate after treatment, you should sit to avoid splashing. Then, close the lid and flush twice.
  - **Wash your genital area** (private parts) after urinating as the medication irritates the skin.
  - **Avoid all sexual activity** for the first 24 hours and use a condom until 48 hours (2 full days) after treatment.
- 2 Do not allow anyone who is pregnant or breastfeeding to handle anything that may contain your bodily fluids.**
- 3 Wash your laundry separately from other household laundry.** Follow these steps:
  - **Wear gloves** and hold dirty items away from your body when carrying them.
  - **Wash your linens** (sheets, towels, blankets) separately from other household laundry.
  - **Machine wash bed sheets and towels in hot water.** If the clothing is heavily soiled with the medication, then wash and rinse it (separate from other laundry) through 2 full cycles.

