Chemotherapy Bladder Instillation: Home Instructions

What is it and why do I need it?
Chemotherapy bladder instillation is a treatment for bladder cancer. It involves sending a liquid chemotherapy medication up into your bladder through a catheter. The medication kills cancer cells on the bladder wall and may prevent or delay their return.

Why do I need to be so careful?
The medications used in the instillation are very harsh. Even after they leave your body in urine and other body fluids, they can seriously irritate any skin they come in contact with. For this reason, it’s very important that both you and your caregivers protect yourselves from:

• Anything that has come in contact with the chemotherapy medication, such as the urinary catheter and tubing.

• Your urine or anything that might have urine on it — such as soiled clothes, diapers, or incontinence pads.

How can my caregivers be safe?
If you have received chemotherapy medication, you and your caregivers need to take these precautions:

• **Use gloves.** For 48 hours following a dose, wear gloves when handling your urine, soiled diapers, or incontinence pads.

• **Flush bodily waste.** For the first 48 hours following a dose, make sure all your waste is completely flushed away. Flush the toilet with the lid closed, and flush more than once if necessary.

• **If caregivers are pregnant** or breast feeding, they can still be in contact with you. They should not, however, handle anything that may contain your bodily fluids.

What about the laundry?
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, etc.) separately from other household laundry.

• Machine wash linens in hot water through two full wash and rinse cycles.

When to call for help?

• If you have a life-threatening emergency, call 911 or the Emergency Medical Service in your area.

• If you are experiencing unexpected or severe side effects from the medication, such as rash, fever, or unusual bleeding, call your doctor.