

## CYTOTOXIC (ANTINEOPLASTIC) DRUG EXPOSURE QUESTIONNAIRE

Cytotoxic drugs are used for treating cancer in patients. Some of these drugs do not distinguish between normal and cancerous cells. As a result, it is important to determine whether healthcare workers are exposed to these drugs in areas where they are prepared and administered. We hope to determine factors which increase or reduce staff exposure to cytotoxic drugs in the workplace. The results of this study will be used to identify exposure risk factors within a hospital (i.e. not individual risks) in order to strengthen safety measures, where required. On behalf of the research team, thank you for agreeing to answer this confidential questionnaire. This questionnaire should take approximately 30 minutes to complete.

### A. Information about You and Your Work

1. Hospital *(check one only)*:
  - Burnaby General
  - Lions Gate
  - Royal Columbian
  - St. Paul's
  - Vancouver General
  
2. Health Authority *(check one only)*:
  - Fraser Health
  - Providence Health Care
  - Vancouver Coastal Health
  
3. Your department *(where you work 75% of your time)*: \_\_\_\_\_
  
4. Your current job title: \_\_\_\_\_
  
5. I have worked in this job for:                   \_\_ \_\_ years \_\_ \_\_ months.
  
6. Overall, I have been in healthcare for:                   \_\_ \_\_ years \_\_ \_\_ months.
  
7. My gender is *(check one only)*
  - Female
  - Male
  
8. My age is *(check one only)*
  - < 20
  - 20-29
  - 30-39
  - 40-49
  - 50-59
  - 60+

**B. Your Work with Cytotoxic Drugs** (Check only one response for each question.)

9. As part of your normal job duties, do you directly handle, prepare and/or administer cytotoxic drugs? For the purposes of this questionnaire, “directly handle” includes transporting the drugs and opening packages containing cytotoxic drugs.
- Yes (answer next three questions; a to c)
  - No (go to question #10)
- a. How long have you been handling, preparing and/or administering cytotoxic drugs?
- \_\_ years \_\_ months
- b. What percentage of time do you spend handling, preparing and/or administering cytotoxic drugs?
- Less than 25%
  - 25 to 50%
  - 51 to 75%
  - More than 75%
- c. How often do you wear gloves when directly handling, preparing and/or administering cytotoxic drugs?
- Never
  - Some of the time
  - Most of the time
  - All the time
10. Do you regularly work (i.e. daily) in an area where cytotoxic drugs are handled, prepared and/or administered?
- Yes
  - No
  - Don't know
11. How often do you wear gloves in an area where cytotoxic drugs have been handled, prepared and/or administered?
- Never
  - Some of the time
  - Most of the time
  - All the time
  - Don't know/Don't recall

**C. Information about Risks and Control Measures** (Check only one response for each question.)

12. Cytotoxic drugs can enter the body through skin contact with drug-contaminated surfaces.
- True
  - False
  - Don't know
13. One of the possible health effects due to workplace exposure to cytotoxic drugs is cancer.
- True
  - False
  - Don't know
14. Surfaces in a room where a patient was given cytotoxic drugs may be potentially contaminated with residual drug.
- True
  - False
  - Don't know
15. Is there a designated preparation area (i.e. isolation room) for pharmacy to mix cytotoxic drugs in your hospital?
- Yes
  - No
  - Don't know
16. Is there a separate method for disposing of cytotoxic drugs and/or those items contaminated with cytotoxic drugs in your hospital?
- Yes
  - No
  - Don't know
17. Is there a safe handling policy/procedure for cytotoxic drugs at your hospital?
- Yes
  - No
  - Don't know
18. Is there a cytotoxic drug spill clean up policy/procedure at your hospital?
- Yes
  - No
  - Don't know

## D. Your Thoughts about Exposure and Risk

Please circle the number that best corresponds to your response (*circle one only*).

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
19. My risk of exposure to cytotoxic drugs in the hospital is very low.	1	2	3	4	0
20. I am afraid of working with or near cytotoxic drugs.	1	2	3	4	0
21. Safety measures currently in place are suitable in reducing cytotoxic drug contamination.	1	2	3	4	0
22. Workers around me are handling cytotoxic drugs safely.	1	2	3	4	0
23. I am confident that I can handle all situations where there is a potential for cytotoxic drug exposure, including spills, leaks, contaminated urine, and patients' vomit.	1	2	3	4	0

## E. Organizational Support and Communication in Your Work Setting

Please circle the number that best corresponds to your response (*circle one only*).

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
24. The protection of workers from exposure to hazardous agents is a high priority in my department.	1	2	3	4	0
25. My immediate supervisor/manager shows concern for my safety on the job.	1	2	3	4	0
26. In my department, employees are encouraged to become involved in workplace health and safety matters (e.g. safety meetings, reporting incidents)	1	2	3	4	0
27. There are good relations amongst all staff (both management and workers) in my department.	1	2	3	4	0

### E. Organizational Support and Communication in Your Work Setting (cont'd)

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
28. Management and workers in my department support one another.	1	2	3	4	0
29. In my department, there is open communication between management and workers.	1	2	3	4	0

### F. Training about Cytotoxic Drugs

The following questions ask about the training that you have received with respect to workplace exposure to cytotoxic drugs and the specific topics that were covered.

30. How often do you receive training related to the workplace health and safety of cytotoxic drugs e.g. workplace exposure risks and ways to minimize the risk *(check one only)?*

- At least every 6 months
- Annually
- Every few years
- Never *(go to question #33)*

31. If you have previously received training related to the workplace health and safety of cytotoxic drugs, did you learn about *(answer all four questions: a to d):*

a. Potential health effects if exposed to cytotoxic drugs *(check one only)?*

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

b. The type and variety surfaces or objects which may be contaminated with cytotoxic drugs or their residue *(check one only)?*

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

c. Safety measures to use in order to reduce potential workplace exposure *(check one only)?*

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

## F. Training about Cytotoxic Drugs (cont'd)

d. Personal protective equipment (e.g. gloves, gown, eye protection and/or respirator) to be worn when in potential contact with cytotoxic drugs (*check one only*)?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

32. The training provided on cytotoxic drugs is adequate to protect myself. (*check one only*)

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- Don't know

## G. Overall Stress of Your Job

The following questions ask about your day-to-day responsibilities. Please circle the number that best corresponds to your response (*circle one only*).

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
33. My job requires me to work very fast.	1	2	3	4	5
34. In this job, I am asked to do an excessive amount of work.	1	2	3	4	5
35. In this job, I have enough time to get the job done.	1	2	3	4	5
36. In this job, I am free from conflicting demands (e.g. interruptions).	1	2	3	4	5

## H. Handwashing and Personal Protective Equipment

The following questions ask about your perceptions of personal protective equipment (i.e. gloves, gowns, eye protection and/or respirator) and your usual handwashing practices.

Please circle the number that best corresponds to your response (*circle one only*).

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
37. I feel that the personal protective equipment required to protect me from cytotoxic drugs is readily available for my use.	1	2	3	4	0

## H. Handwashing and Personal Protective Equipment (cont'd)

- |   | Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Don't Know |
|---|----------------|-------|----------|-------------------|------------|
| 38. In general, I feel that I am able to use the required personal protective equipment properly. | 1              | 2     | 3        | 4                 | 0          |
39. If you use gloves, do you wash your hands immediately after removing your gloves *(check one only)*?
- Never
  - Some of the time
  - Most of the time
  - All the time
  - Not applicable
40. Do you wash your hands immediately after being in an area where cytotoxic drugs were handled, prepared and/or administered *(check one only)*?
- Never
  - Some of the time
  - Most of the time
  - All the time
  - Don't know
41. On average, what is the length of time you spend washing your hands (each time) *(check one only)*?
- 5 seconds or less
  - 6 to 10 seconds
  - 11 to 15 seconds
  - More than 15 seconds
42. What do you usually use to wash your hands while at work *(check one only)*?
- Water only
  - Soap and water
  - Alcohol hand gel/foam
  - Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

## I. Previous Exposure(s)

43. Have you ever had *direct, unintended* contact with cytotoxic drugs while at work (*check one only*)?

- Yes (provide details below in box below)
- No (*go to question #44*)
- Don't know (*go to question #44*)

If "yes", please describe the circumstances:

44. If you have any additional comments related to cytotoxic (antineoplastic) drug exposure in the workplace, please enter into box below:

**THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO COMPLETE THE QUESTIONNAIRE!**

Please return the completed questionnaire (all 8 pages) using the pre-paid envelope provided.

Once we have received your questionnaire, we will send you the honorarium cheque of \$25 to the address we used to send you the survey. *Please let us know if you want the cheque sent to an alternate address.*