

Utarbeidet av AA Godkjent av	<b>SOP</b>  <b>Working with cytostatic drugs</b>	Versjon: 2,0 Utarbeidet: 06.12.12 Revidert: 30.09.14 Oppdatert: 14.02.17 Oppdatert: 23.04.2026
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### 1. Purpose

This procedure shall secure a safe working environment for the staff working at Comparative Medicine Core Facility and make sure no one is exposed to cytostatic drugs.

The procedure is valid for all work involving cytostatic drugs at the unit.

### 2. Responsibility

- Head of unit is responsible for offering a safe working environment at the unit, and for making all relevant procedures and protective equipment available at the unit.
- The staff is responsible for working in accordance with all relevant procedures.
- If a new drug or procedure is introduced to the unit, the person in charge of the project must make a safety sheet available for head of unit, perform a risk assessment for the work and make a separate SOP if necessary.

### 3. Definition

Cytostatic drugs are cytotoxic and therefore damaging to the cells of our body. This means that the drugs have the potential of being carcinogenic and harmful for an unborn child, by skin contact, inhalation or ingestion.

### 4. Protective equipment:

Hair net, P3-mask, protective goggles (if you are working with undiluted drugs), gloves of standard EN 374-2 and disposable lab coat covering the arms are mandatory.

### 5. General rules

- Only personnel with necessary training are allowed to work with cytostatic drugs, and animals treated with such drugs.
- Mix and dilute the cytostatic drug in an external lab.
- If the diluted drug is stored at the unit, inform the head of unit. Label all containers with name of drug and danger classification. Person responsible for the drug and head of unit must find an appropriate place to store the drug and inform the staff.
- Pregnant women shall not work with cytostatic drugs or animals treated with the drug.
- Breastfeeding women can participate in the procedures, as long as all rules are followed closely.
- Inform head of facility before you start the treatment. We need to set the cages

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under negative pressure.

- Cover the working surface with bench paper.
- All injections should, if possible, be performed in a safety cabinet. If this is not possible, use a down-ventilated table and make sure to keep the external parts of the ventilated area open.
- If further dilution in the unit is necessary, use the safety cabinet in the large surgery room.
- Only staff involved in the procedure should stay in the room at the time of dilution and injection.
- Remove all unnecessary equipment from the working areas.
- Use syringes with luer locks if available.
- Press air out of syringes against a compress, to avoid making aerosols.
- Immobilize animals when injecting cytostatic drugs. If they are difficult to handle, use anesthesia.
- Put the date of all treatments on the cage card.
- Make sure all cages are clearly labeled after injecting cytostatic drugs, with the unit's cytostatic drug labels.
- For the technicians: change the cages in the safety cabinet, after the quarantine period for the drug in question (5 days after the last treatment is standard quarantine period, but it might be longer for some drugs).
- Empty the dirty bedding in a designated yellow container, inside the safety cabinet.
- Wipe lids, cages and reusable enrichment with alcohol and water inside the safety cabinet before they are taken to the washing room. Put all disposable waste in the yellow container and mark it with "Cytostatic drug".

## **6. Cleaning up**

- Clean working areas with soap and water.
- Wash hands properly after removing gloves.
- Put all waste material in a designated yellow container.

## **7. Accidents**

- Injection through skin: squeeze the wound until it bleeds and continue for as long as blood comes from the wound. Wash thoroughly with soap and water. Notify head of unit and contact your doctor.
- Contact with skin: wash thoroughly with soap and water.
- Contact with eyes: flush with water or NaCl for 15 minutes (use equipment for eye flushing, available in the surgery rooms. If you can't access it, put your head in the sink and flush with water). Contact the hospital immediately for advice.
- Spill on equipment: use paper to absorb the spill, then wash with soap and water.
- All accidents should be notified to the head of unit and reported in NTNUs system for HSE accidents.

