

Recognising and Preparing Cytotoxic and Cytostatic Drugs for Disposal

The Department of Health technical memorandum 07-01: [Management and disposal of healthcare waste](#) includes a list of examples of non-chemotherapy cytotoxic and cytostatic drugs and cancer chemotherapy drugs to promote identifying and disposing of these drugs appropriately. Under the waste regulations, these drugs must be disposed of as “hazardous waste”.

REMEMBER: Use purple lidded bins for cytotoxic/cytostatic waste disposal

- **Nursing homes** – will be required to dispose of cytotoxic / cytostatic drug waste in a designated receptacle (purple lidded bin) accompanied with a consignment note when collected by the waste disposal company.
- **Residential homes** – are also required to dispose of cytotoxic / cytostatic drug waste in a designated receptacle (purple lidded bin) but these should be collected/returned as per the local care home medicines policy.
- **Sharpsguard® Disposal units** – purple lidded bins can be supplied on prescription from the GP.



Example cytotoxic/cytostatic waste units

The below list can be used as a guide and is a selection of drugs which you may come across in the care home setting. The full list is available by following this [link](#) (pg. 167) but may not include all very new, unlicensed, or trial medicines.

Example list of non- chemotherapy cytotoxic / cytostatic drugs

Anastrozole (ARMIDEX) Azathioprine BCG Vaccine Bicalutamide (CASODEX) Chloramphenicol Ciclosporin Cidofovir Coal-Tar containing products Colchicine Cyclophosphamide Danazol Diethylstilbestrol	Dinoprostone Dithranol containing products Dutasteride (AVODART) Estradiol Estrogen containing products Exemestane (AROMASIN) Finasteride (PROSCAR) Flutamide (DROGENIL) Ganciclovir Gonadotropin Chlorinic Goserelin (ZOLADEX) Interferon containing products	Leflunomide Letrozole Leuprorelin acetate Medroxyprogesterone Megestrol Menotropins Mifepristone Mycophenolate mofetil (CELLCEPT) Nafarelin Oxytocin + Sytocinon & syntometrine Progesterone	Raloxifene (EVISTA) Ribavirin Sirolimus Streptozocin Tacrolimus (PROGRAF) Tamoxifen Testosterone Thalidomide Toremifene citrate Triptorelin (Decapeptyl / Gonapeptyl) Valganciclovir Zidovudine
--	---	--	--

Example list oral cancer chemotherapy drugs

Busulphan	Mercaptopurine (e.g. Purinethol®)
Cyclophosphamide	Methotrexate (e.g. Metoject®)
Hydroxycarbamide (e.g. Hydrea®)	Procarbazine

Note:- Items may have other uses than in the treatment of cancer