

## Factsheet 1: Dissolving oral anti-cancer tablets

---

This factsheet will guide you or a carer through how to give anti-cancer tablets safely as a solution.

You should only dissolve anti-cancer tablets if you have been advised how to do this safely by a healthcare professional.

This procedure is not suitable for all medicines. Please only use this procedure for the anti-cancer tablets that healthcare professionals have advised you about.

### Remember

- Your anti-cancer tablets should not be handled by anyone who is pregnant or planning a pregnancy unless you are taking on the advice of your medical team.
- Use the oral anti-cancer pack provided.
- Store the tablets in the container provided.
- Store the tablets in a secure place, away from and out of the sight of children.

### Preparation

You will need a clean and clear working surface.

Try to ensure there are no interruptions (for example from pets or children).

Do not mix different medicines together.

### Procedure

1. You will need to have ready the following items:
  - the anti-cancer tablets needed for the dose
  - a glass and a spoon (kept only for this purpose)
  - half a glass of tap water (unless otherwise specified)  
(Suitable liquid or flavouring \_\_\_\_\_)
  - yellow special clinical waste bag
  - kitchen roll (kept only for this purpose)
  - pair of non-sterile disposable gloves
  - plastic apron
2. Place a sheet of kitchen towel on the working surface.
3. Put on the gloves and apron.
4. Put the tablet(s) needed for the dose in the glass.
5. Add the water to the tablet(s) and allow to disperse.

6. Agitate the solution using the spoon every 5 minutes or so to help the tablet(s) disperse.  
**Note** different tablets take different amounts of time to disperse and may not dissolve completely. For example, there may be small lumps or grains in the solution.
7. When the tablet(s) has dispersed, take the medicine/give the medicine to the patient.
8. To ensure that the whole dose is taken, swirl the glass with water and take/give to the patient. Repeat if necessary.
9. In case of any spillages, please see Table 1 below for details
10. Clean the work surface with damp kitchen roll and dispose of gloves, kitchen roll and apron into the yellow clinical waste bag provided.
11. Seal and return the waste bag to the hospital when full.
12. Wash hands thoroughly.

**Table 1: Handling spillages**

Contact	Action
<b>Skin</b>	Immediately wash the affected area thoroughly with luke warm soapy water. Do not scrub as this may damage the skin. Contact your doctor for advice if you have any adverse effects.
<b>Eye</b>	Wash the eye with plenty of fresh water every few minutes for about 20 minutes. Contact your doctor for advice if you have any adverse effects.
<b>Work surface or floor</b>	Wearing protective clothing (gloves and apron) wipe up the spillage using paper towels. Wash the area with warm soapy water and dry with absorbent paper towel. Kitchen towel should be put in the special clinical waste bag.
<b>Clothing</b>	Wearing gloves, blot the area with kitchen towel, remove clothing and wash separately from other items. Wash any affected areas of your skin as described above. Kitchen towel should be put in the special clinical waste bag.