# PHARMACY QI



Practical tips for Quality Improvement

September 2012

# **CYTOTOXIC DRUGS**

## **Routes of exposure**

- Inhalation
- Skin or eye contact
- Injection due to sharps injury

#### **Potential Harmful effects**

- Skin rashes (contact dermatitis, allergies, irritation)
- Hair loss, abdominal, vomitting
- Fetal abnormalities



## **Commonly use Cytotoxic Drugs in LTC**

Proscar®, Avodart®, Arimidex®, Tamoxifen®, Hydroxurea, Methotrexate (oral or injection), Misoprostal, Megace®, Casodex®, Imuran®, Leukeran®, Aldara® ointment.



# **Preventing Exposure**

- Wear gloves at all times or use a cup
- DO NOT crush or pierce (if need for G-tube ask for a liquid form or alternative)
- Avoid direct handling of tablets
- Apply ointment or lotions with disposable spatula
- BE AWARE of what is cytotoxic

Dispose of contaminated equipment as cytotoxic waste. Know where your spill kit is in case of exposure.

