

SFHCHEM1

Deliver anti-cancer therapy intravenously



Overview

This standard covers the delivery of anti-cancer therapy intravenously to patients. It includes checking the treatment drugs against the prescription and patient information, delivery of treatment, and the education of the patient and/or carer with regard to side effects and lifestyle. This standard applies to each administration episode.

Users of this standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 greet and accurately identify the patient
- P2 introduce yourself and any colleagues involved in the procedure to the patient and/or carer
- P3 read the patient's notes, prescription and relevant regimen protocol and identify any special instructions, investigations including abnormal blood test results, or issues for which you need to seek advice
- P4 review the patient's history since their last attendance including toxicity assessment
- P5 ensure that the appropriate consent procedure has been completed and determine whether or not the patient is willing to proceed
- P6 explain the treatment and potential side effects and their management to the patient and/or carer and accurately answer any questions at a level and pace that is appropriate to:
 - P6.1 their level of understanding
 - P6.2 their culture and background
 - P6.3 their preferred ways of communicating
 - P6.4 their needs
- P7 check that the patient and/or carer understands the treatment to be given and any potential side effects together with their management
- P8 position the patient correctly for the procedure, respecting their dignity and ensuring their comfort within the constraints of the procedure
- P9 check the environment and equipment to ensure that everything is properly prepared for the procedure, including the availability of emergency kits
- P10 check the treatment drugs against the treatment plan, protocol, regimen, prescription and patient information with regard to the following (and take action if any of the following are abnormal):
 - P10.1 patient's identification on prescription and on labelled drugs
 - P10.2 the date the drugs are due to be administered
 - P10.3 critical test results including blood results
 - P10.4 regimen and individual drug identification
 - P10.5 the drugs' fitness for administration (assessed by expiry date/time, appearance and correct storage condition)
 - P10.6 diluents and dilution volumes, and any hydration as per prescription
 - P10.7 individual dose

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- P10.8 administration route and duration
- P10.9 cycle number
- P10.10 the administration as per the schedule within the cycle
- P11 ensure that there is full venous access and that the access device is:
 - P11.1 patent
 - P11.2 in the correct position
 - P11.3 secure
 - P11.4 appropriate for the treatment being administered
- P12 ensure that supportive drugs have been given as per the prescription and patient need
- P13 undertake a final check of the treatment drugs against the prescription and the patient's identity before administration according to local guidelines
- P14 undertake the procedure according to national, regional and local anti-cancer therapy guidelines
- P15 give the required drugs via the prescribed route, at the prescribed rate, in the appropriate order according to treatment protocols
- P16 monitor the patient for indications of extravasation, discomfort or any allergic or hypersensitive reactions and act appropriately
- P17 during the treatment monitor the rate of intravenous administration and adjust if required
- P18 maintain communications with the patient and/or carer during the procedure and respond to any questions
- P19 remove the cannula or disconnect from the venous access device on completion of the treatment according to local guidelines
- P20 dispose of contaminated waste and sharps according to local guidelines
- P21 return any unused drugs to the pharmacy according to local guidelines
- P22 assess the patient's condition, both physical and emotional, at the conclusion of the treatment and take appropriate action
- P23 record the details of the treatment in the patient's notes, prescription and patient held records, as appropriate, according to local guidelines
- P24 communicate with appropriate professional colleagues as required by local guidelines
- P25 recognise when you need help and/or advice and seek this as appropriate

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 national, regional and local guidelines for:
 - K1.1 anti-cancer therapy, the selection of appropriate treatment and intended outcomes
 - K1.2 consent to anti-cancer therapy, including clinical trials
 - K1.3 the safe handling, storage and administration of anti-cancer therapy drugs and equipment
 - K1.4 medicines management
- K2 national guidelines for the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) including spillage and their application in anti-cancer therapy
- K3 local guidelines for :
 - K3.1 infection control and their application in anti-cancer therapy for the appropriate regimen
 - K3.2 waste and sharps handling and disposal
 - K3.3 patient records, their storage and confidentiality of information
 - K3.4 risk management and adverse incidents
- K4 the symptoms associated with malignant disease and its progression
- K5 the medical terminology relevant to the treatment
- K6 the signs and symptoms of the patient's physical and emotional status
- K7 the psycho-sexual and body image issues associated with anti-cancer therapy
- K8 the range of information which should be made available to the patient and/or carer that is appropriate to their personal requirements
- K9 the safe operation of the equipment used to administer anti-cancer therapy
- K10 how to recognise equipment faults promptly and manage them according to local policies
- K11 equipment limitations and routine maintenance
- K12 different venous access devices and their care
- K13 the treatment of malignant disease
- K14 the mode of action, the side effects of anti-cancer therapy, how to recognise them and the appropriate treatment regimens
- K15 drug calculations appropriate to procedure, dose dilution and length of delivery
- K16 methods of peripheral and central venous administration
- K17 the normal parameters for routine investigations in relation to

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administering anti-cancer therapy intravenously

K18 how to recognise, respond to, manage and prevent hypersensitivity

K19 how to recognise, respond to, manage and prevent extravasation

K20 the roles and responsibilities of other team members, associated professionals and agencies in relation to the delivery of anti-cancer therapy intravenously

K21 the limits of one's own knowledge and experience and the importance of not operating beyond these

K22 the importance of clear communication

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Additional Information

Links to other NOS

There are additional NOS on the Skills for Health website relating to Assessing an individual for anti-cancer therapy, Providing ongoing care and support for individuals during their treatment cycles and Prescribing anti-cancer therapy.

External Links

This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004):

Dimension: HWB7 Interventions and treatments

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