

# SFHCEM11

## Prescribe anti-cancer therapy and related supportive treatment



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### Overview

This standard covers prescribing anti-cancer therapy and related supportive trials or treatments for patients with cancer. It includes the determination of the appropriate regimen for the patient, which drugs to prescribe, the dosage, frequency of administration, the most effective route of administration, the appropriate supportive therapy and a review of any drug interactions or possible allergic reactions and potential side effects. It also includes the modification of subsequent prescriptions in the light of patient tolerance, side effects, complications and response to treatment.

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

# SFHCCHEM11

## Prescribe anti-cancer therapy and related supportive treatment

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### Performance criteria

*You must be able to:*

- P1 ensure that the appropriate consent procedure has been completed
- P2 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
- P3 determine the appropriate regimen for the patient, which drugs to prescribe, the dosage, frequency of administration, the most effective route of administration and the appropriate supportive therapy
- P4 assess the appropriateness of the intended treatment against the patient's current health status, medication, other cancer treatment and the patient's preferences
- P5 prescribe the anti-cancer therapy according to legislation, national and local prescribing guidelines and relevant clinical information to ensure safe and optimal delivery of treatment
- P6 ensure that the prescription includes:
  - P6.1 the name of the anti-cancer therapy protocol
  - P6.2 all anti-cancer therapy medicines to be given including protocol doses
  - P6.3 maximum cumulative doses where applicable
  - P6.4 route and method and duration of administration
  - P6.5 dose, frequency and duration of treatment must be written in full
  - P6.6 start and stop dates for the duration of treatment, and the number of days without anti-cancer therapy
  - P6.7 full directions for use
  - P6.8 where appropriate, diluent and infusion volumes
  - P6.9 hydration schedules if required
  - P6.10 pre-medication required
  - P6.11 appropriate supportive therapy
  - P6.12 potential interactions and medications to be avoided
  - P6.13 indication of concomitant radiotherapy where applicable
  - P6.14 references to peer reviewed literature or clinical trial protocols
- P7 process the prescription legibly ensuring your intention for treatment is clear, accurate and complete and that there are no ambiguities
- P8 record the reason(s) for any deviations from the protocol on the prescription, treatment record and in the patient's notes

## SFHCHEM11

### Prescribe anti-cancer therapy and related supportive treatment

---

- P9 modify any subsequent prescriptions in light of the patient's tolerance, side effects, complications and response to treatment
- P10 communicate with appropriate professional colleagues as required by local guidelines
- P11 recognise when you need help and/or advice and seek this from appropriate sources
- P12 determine the appropriateness of continuing treatment in patients with poor performance status, co-morbid conditions or disease progression

# SFHCEM11

## Prescribe anti-cancer therapy and related supportive treatment

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### Knowledge and understanding

*You need to know and understand:*

- K1 national, regional and local anti-cancer therapy protocols and guidelines, the selection of appropriate treatment and intended outcomes
- K2 the local guidelines for patient records, their storage and confidentiality of information
- K3 the national and local prescribing policies and guidelines
- K4 the guidelines on the administration of medicines
- K5 commonly used toxicity assessment tools
- K6 your role and responsibilities in prescribing anti-cancer therapy and local, regional and national guidelines related to anti-cancer therapy.
- K7 the disease progression and the potential impact on physiological systems
- K8 the relevance of other treatment modalities and clinical conditions
- K9 the advantages and disadvantages of the proposed treatment and its alternatives
- K10 the indications and contra-indications for the proposed treatment
- K11 the routes by which treatment can be administered and appropriate dosage
- K12 the side effects of the proposed treatment, and their assessment, monitoring, prevention and management
- K13 the normal parameters for routine investigations prior to prescribing the current regimen/cycle
- K14 the mode of action, the side effects of anti-cancer therapy, how to recognise them and the appropriate treatment regimens
- K15 diagnosis, treatment/care plan, protocol and guidelines relating to prescribing anti-cancer therapy
- K16 current national documents in relation to providing anti-cancer therapy
- K17 electronic prescribing systems
- K18 the roles and responsibilities of other team members in relation to prescribing anti-cancer therapy and related supportive treatment
- K19 the limits of one's own knowledge and experience and the importance of not operating beyond these
- K20 common medication errors and strategies used to minimise errors
- K21 methods for calculating correct doses including the use of dose banding and dose rounding
- K22 issues relating to the administration of anti-cancer therapy drugs and

# SFHCEM11

## Prescribe anti-cancer therapy and related supportive treatment

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how to manage these

K23 principles of dose delays/reduction

# SFHCHEM11

## Prescribe anti-cancer therapy and related supportive treatment

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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, Administering anti-cancer therapy and Providing ongoing care and support for individuals during their treatment cycles.

#### External Links

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

Dimension: HWB7 Interventions and treatments

# SFHCHEM11

## Prescribe anti-cancer therapy and related supportive treatment

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