

# SFHCEM19

## Provide intra-muscular and subcutaneous administration of anti-cancer therapy



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### Overview

This standard covers the intra-muscular and subcutaneous administration of anti-cancer therapy to patients. It includes checking the treatment drugs against the prescription and patient information, the 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.

## SFHCEM19

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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
- 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 undertake the procedure according to national, regional and local anti-cancer therapy guidelines
- P11 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):
  - P11.1 patient's identification on prescription and on labelled drugs
  - P11.2 the date the drugs are due to be administered
  - P11.3 critical test results including blood results
  - P11.4 regimen and individual drug identification
  - P11.5 the drugs' fitness for administration (assessed by expiry date/time, appearance and correct storage condition)

## SFHCEM19

### Provide intra-muscular and subcutaneous administration of anti-cancer therapy

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- P11.6 diluents and dilution volumes as per prescription
- P11.7 individual dose
- P11.8 administration route and time of retention
- P11.9 cycle number
- P11.10 the administration as per the schedule within the cycle
- P12 ensure that the administration equipment to be used:
  - P12.1 is patent
  - P12.2 is appropriately sited
  - P12.3 has any attachments correctly fitted
- P13 ensure that supportive drugs have been given as per the prescription and patient need
- P14 undertake a final check of the treatment drugs against the prescription and the patient's identity before administration according to local guidelines
- P15 administer the prescribed drug and ensure its retention according to treatment protocols
- P16 during the treatment monitor the patient for indications of discomfort or any allergic or hypersensitive reactions and act appropriately
- P17 help the patient into the relevant post procedure positions as per regimen or local guidelines
- P18 dispose of contaminated waste according to local guidelines
- P19 return any unused drugs to the pharmacy according to local guidelines
- P20 assess the patient's condition, both physical and psychological, at the conclusion of the treatment and take appropriate action
- P21 record the details of the treatment in the patient's notes, prescription and patient held records, as appropriate, according to local guidelines
- P22 communicate with appropriate professional colleagues as required by local guidelines
- P23 recognise when you need help and/or advice and seek this as appropriate

## SFHCHEM19

# Provide intra-muscular and subcutaneous administration of anti-cancer therapy

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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
  - K4.4 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 how to select the appropriate administration equipment and the appropriate site for administration
- K9 the different types of intra-muscular and subcutaneous access and the rationale for their use
- K10 the range of information which should be made available to the patient and/or carer that is appropriate to their personal requirements
- K11 the safe operation of the equipment used to deliver anti-cancer therapy
- K12 the treatment of malignant disease
- K13 the mode of action, the side effects of anti-cancer therapy drugs, how to recognise them and the appropriate treatment regimens
- K14 drugs suitable for use by intra-muscular and subcutaneous route
- K15 drug calculations appropriate to procedure, dose dilution and length of delivery
- K16 the normal parameters for routine investigations relating to administering

## SFHCEM19

### Provide intra-muscular and subcutaneous administration of anti-cancer therapy

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intra-muscular and subcutaneous anti-cancer therapy

- K17 how to recognise, respond to, manage and prevent hypersensitivity
- K18 the reasons for administration equipment blockages and procedures for prevention and unblocking
- K19 the importance of the post procedure positioning of the patient for the appropriate length of time
- K20 the roles and responsibilities of other team members, associated professionals and agencies in relation to providing intra-muscular and subcutaneous administration of anti-cancer therapy
- K21 the limits of one's own knowledge and experience and the importance of not operating beyond these
- K22 the importance of clear communication

## SFHCEM19

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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

## SFHCHEM19

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