

SFHCHEM4

Assist with the administration of intrathecal anti-cancer therapy



Overview

This standard covers assisting with the administration of anti-cancer therapy intrathecally to adults and children. It includes checking the treatment drugs against the prescription and patient information, assisting with 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 must be registered on the relevant intrathecal register.

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 ensure the treatment room is a designated treatment area in line with national and local guidelines for this procedure
- P2 check the environment and equipment to ensure that everything is properly prepared for the procedure, including the availability of emergency kits
- P3 ensure that the appropriate consent procedure has been completed
- P4 ensure that the required personnel are present for the procedure in line with national guidelines
- P5 ensure that you and the required personnel are on the intrathecal register before you proceed
- P6 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
- P7 provide evidence for pharmacy personnel that the pre-requisite, prescribed intravenous drugs have already been administered in the correct sequence as directed by national guidelines
- P8 greet and accurately identify the patient
- P9 introduce yourself and any colleagues involved in the procedure to the patient and/or carer
- P10 check the intrathecal treatment drugs in accordance with intrathecal anti-cancer therapy guidelines (with an appropriate second checker who is on the register and the patient or nominated other) 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 critical test results including blood results
 - P10.3 regimen and individual drug identification
 - P10.4 names of drugs
 - P10.5 the drugs' fitness for administration (assessed by expiry date/time, appearance and correct storage condition)
 - P10.6 diluents and dilution volumes
 - P10.7 individual dose
 - P10.8 administration route
 - P10.9 cycle number
 - P10.10 the administration as per the schedule within the cycle

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- P11 assist with the administration of the procedure according to local guidelines, local control of infection and COSHH guidelines
- 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
- P14 position the patient correctly for the procedure, respecting their dignity and ensuring their comfort within the constraints of the procedure
- P15 during the treatment monitor the patient for indications of discomfort or any allergic or hypersensitive reactions and act appropriately
- P16 maintain communications with the patient and/or carer during the procedure and respond to any questions
- P17 assess the patient's condition, both physical and emotional, at the conclusion of the treatment and take appropriate action
- P18 continue to monitor the patient's physical state and position the patient appropriately for the required period post-treatment and decide when they are fit to leave the treatment area, according to local guidelines
- P19 remind the patient and/or carer of the information and advice they have already been given with regard to lifestyle and side effects and respond to any questions or requests for information
- P20 confirm the details of the next appointment and any prior investigations or tests with the patient and/or carer, if appropriate
- P21 provide information on how to obtain help at any time
- P22 ensure the patient and/or carer has all medication to take home and understands how to handle, take and store them
- P23 recognise when you need help and/or advice and seek this from appropriate sources
- P24 ensure patient and/or carer is aware of any post intrathecal information and potential side effects.

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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 the administration of intrathecal anti-cancer therapy and lumbar puncture procedure
 - K1.3 consent to anti-cancer therapy, including clinical trials
 - K1.4 the safe handling, storage and administration of anti-cancer therapy drugs and equipment
 - K1.5 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 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 the correct route of the administration of anti-cancer therapy and the risks, signs and symptoms associated with inappropriate administration
- K13 the drugs suitable for use and those fatal if administered by intrathecal route
- K14 the sequencing of intrathecal anti-cancer therapy for children and/or adults

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- K15 the treatment of malignant disease
- K16 the mode of action, the side effects of anti-cancer therapy, how to recognise them and the appropriate treatment regimens
- K17 the normal parameters for routine investigations relating to administering intrathecal anti-cancer therapy
- K18 how to recognise, respond to, manage and prevent hypersensitivity
- K19 the equipment required to undertake the lumbar puncture procedure
- K20 the roles and responsibilities of other team members, associated professionals and agencies in relation to assisting with the administration of intrathecal 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

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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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