

# SFHCEM8

## Provide oral anti-cancer therapy



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### Overview

This standard covers the provision of oral anti-cancer therapy to patients to take home with them. It includes checking the treatment drugs against the prescription and patient information, the safe storage, taking and disposal of the medication and education of the patient and/or carer with regard to side effects and lifestyle.

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

# SFHCEM8

## Provide oral anti-cancer therapy

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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 evaluate the patient's ability to take medication orally and respond appropriately
- P6 ensure that the appropriate consent procedure has been completed and determine whether or not the patient is willing to proceed
- P7 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:
  - P7.1 their level of understanding
  - P7.2 their culture and background
  - P7.3 their preferred ways of communicating
  - P7.4 their needs
- P8 check that the patient and/or carer understands the treatment to be given and any potential side effects together with their management
- P9 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):
  - P9.1 patient's identification on prescription and on labelled drugs
  - P9.2 the date the drugs are due to be administered
  - P9.3 critical test results
  - P9.4 regimen and individual drug identification
  - P9.5 the drugs' fitness for administration (assessed by expiry date/time, appearance and correct storage condition)
  - P9.6 diluents and dilution volumes as per prescription
  - P9.7 individual dose
  - P9.8 administration route and time of retention
  - P9.9 cycle number
  - P9.10 the administration as per the schedule within the cycle

## SFHCHEM8

### Provide oral anti-cancer therapy

---

- P10 advise the patient how to safely dispose of contaminated waste and unused medication
- P11 advise the patient which medication to take, how many days to take medication for and the number of rest days if appropriate
- P12 advise the patient of what to do if they vomit a dose or miss a dose
- P13 instruct the patient on the dangers to others from contact with their anti-cancer therapy medication and the precautions required
- P14 undertake a final check of the treatment drugs against the prescription and the patient's identity before supply
- P15 ensure sufficient supply of the medication to complete the treatment cycle and ensure that the exact number of tablets/capsules have been supplied
- P16 advise patient of when they need to return for the next supply of oral anti-cancer therapy medication
- P17 instruct the patient to return any unused drugs to the pharmacy according to local guidelines, once the treatment cycle is completed or stopped
- P18 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
- P19 confirm the details of the next appointment and any prior investigations or tests with the patient and/or carer, if appropriate
- P20 check that the patient/carer understands how to contact out of hours services in the event of an emergency
- P21 ensure the patient and/or carer has all necessary medication with clear instructions on labels
- P22 record the details of the treatment in the patient's notes, prescription and patient held records, as appropriate, according to local guidelines
- P23 communicate with appropriate professional colleagues as required by local guidelines
- P24 recognise when you need help and/or advice and seek this from appropriate sources

# SFHCEM8

## Provide oral 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, administration and disposal 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 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 treatment of malignant disease
- K10 the mode of action, the side effects of anti-cancer therapy, how to recognise them and the appropriate treatment regimens
- K11 methods for drug calculations including dose banding, rounding and duration of cycle
- K12 the normal parameters for routine investigations relating to providing oral anti-cancer therapy
- K13 how to recognise, respond to, manage and prevent hypersensitivity
- K14 the common medication errors related to anti-cancer medicines and strategies used to minimise these errors
- K15 the roles and responsibilities of other team members, associated professional and agencies in relation to providing oral anti-cancer therapy

## SFHCHEM8

### Provide oral anti-cancer therapy

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K16 the limits of one's own knowledge and experience and the importance of not operating beyond these

K17 the importance of clear communication

## SFHCHEM8

### Provide oral anti-cancer therapy

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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

# SFHCHEM8

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