

SFHCEM9

Administer topical anti-cancer therapy



Overview

This standard covers the administration and provision of topical anti-cancer therapy treatment to patients. It includes checking the treatment drugs against the prescription and patient information, the safe storage and use of the medication and the education of the patient and/or carer with regard to administration of the medication, 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 treatment 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 prepare to undertake the treatment, or instruct the patient and/or carer how to prepare to undertake the treatment according to local anti-cancer therapy guidelines, local control of infection and COSHH guidelines
- P10 check the medication 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 the drugs' fitness for application (assessed by expiry date/time, appearance and correct storage condition)
 - P10.5 strength and concentration
 - P10.6 individual dose
 - P10.7 application route and duration

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- P10.8 frequency of application
- P10.9 cycle number
- P10.10 the application as per the schedule within the cycle
- P11 undertake a final check of the treatment drugs against the prescription and the patient's identity before administration
- P12 ensure that supportive drugs have been given as per the prescription and patient need
- P13 prepare, or instruct the patient and/or carer how to prepare, the area to be treated according to local guidelines
- P14 apply, or instruct the patient and/or carer how to apply, the treatment using an appropriate applicator according to method of administration, area to be treated and local guidelines
- P15 maintain communications with the patient and/or carer during the treatment and respond to any questions
- P16 ensure the patient and/or carer understands that the treatment is only applied to the specific area to be treated and should avoid contact with eyes, nose, mouth or areas close to mucous membranes unless this is the area to be treated
- P17 ensure you remove immediately, or inform the patient and/or carer that they must remove immediately, all medication from areas not to be treated according to local guidelines
- P18 ensure you remove completely, or inform the patient and/or carer that they must remove completely, the medication on completion of the required contact time, if appropriate
- P19 thoroughly wash your hands, or instruct the patient and/or carer to thoroughly wash their hands, immediately after the application of the treatment
- P20 monitor, or instruct the patient and/or carer to monitor, for indications of discomfort or any allergic or hypersensitive reactions and act appropriately
- P21 dispose, or instruct the patient and/or carer how to dispose, of all contaminated waste according to local guidelines
- P22 return any unused medication to the pharmacy according to local guidelines
- P23 record the details of the treatment given, or to be given, 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 from appropriate sources

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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 disposal
 - K3.3 patient records, their storage and confidentiality of information
 - K3.4 risk management and adverse incidents
- K4 the range of information which should be made available to the patient and/or carer that is appropriate to their personal requirements
- K5 the symptoms associated with malignant disease and its progression
- K6 the medical terminology relevant to the treatment
- K7 the signs and symptoms of the patient's physical and emotional status
- K8 the psycho-sexual and body image issues associated with anti-cancer therapy
- 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 the normal parameters for routine investigations in relation to administering topical anti-cancer therapy
- K12 how to recognise, respond to, manage and prevent hypersensitivity
- K13 the modes of delivery of topical treatment and the local guidelines for the delivery of such treatment
- K14 the signs and symptoms of local skin reactions and reactions to topical anti-cancer therapy
- K15 the roles and responsibilities of other team members, associated professionals and agencies in relation to administering topical 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

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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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