

CHEM11 Prescribe chemotherapy treatment and related supportive treatment

OVERVIEW

This standard covers prescribing chemotherapy treatment and related supportive treatment for adult patients. 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. Version No 1

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

You will need to know and understand:

1. national and local chemotherapy guidelines and their application in chemotherapy and the appropriate regimen
2. the local guidelines for patient records, their storage and confidentiality of information
3. the national and local prescribing guidelines
4. the Manual of Cancer Assessment Measures
5. the Guidelines on the Administration of Medicines
6. intrathecal guidelines
7. the disease progression and the potential impact on physiological systems
8. the relevance of other treatment modalities and clinical conditions
9. the advantages and disadvantages of the proposed treatment and its alternatives
10. the indications and contra-indications for the proposed treatment
11. the routes by which treatment can be administered and appropriate dosage
12. the side effects of the proposed treatment, and their assessment, monitoring, prevention and management
13. the relevant anatomy and pathology
14. the normal parameters for routine investigations
15. principles and practice of prescribing chemotherapy
16. the side effects of cytotoxic chemotherapy drugs, how to recognise them and the appropriate treatment regimens
17. diagnosis, care plan, protocol and guidelines
18. the mode of action and side effects of the cytotoxic chemotherapy regimen
19. peer reviewed literature

20. electronic prescribing systems
21. the roles and responsibilities of other team members
22. the limits of one's own knowledge and experience and the importance of not operating beyond these

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

You must be able to do the following:

1. ensure that the appropriate consent procedure has been completed
2. 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
3. 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
4. assess the appropriateness of the intended treatment against the patient's current health status, medication, other cancer treatment and the patient's preferences.
5. prescribe the chemotherapy treatment according to legislation, national and local prescribing guidelines and relevant clinical information to ensure safe and optimal delivery of treatment
6. include in the prescription:
 1. the name of the chemotherapy protocol
 2. all chemotherapy medicines to be given including protocol doses
 3. maximum cumulative doses where applicable
 4. route, method and duration of administration
 5. where appropriate, diluent and infusion volumes
 6. hydration schedules if required
 7. pre-medication required
 8. appropriate supportive therapy
 9. potential interactions and medications to be avoided
 10. indication of concomitant radiotherapy where applicable
 11. references to peer reviewed literature or clinical trial protocols
7. process the prescription legibly ensuring your intention for treatment is clear, accurate and complete and that there are no ambiguities
8. record the reason(s) for any deviations from the protocol on the prescription and in the patient's notes
9. modify any subsequent prescriptions in light of the patient's tolerance, side effects, complications and response to treatment
10. communicate with appropriate professional colleagues as required by local guidelines
11. recognise when you need help and/or advice and seek this from appropriate sources

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This National Occupational Standard was developed by Skills for Health. This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004): Dimension: HWB6 Assessment and treatment planning