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PHARM56.2011 Verify prescription for anti-cancer therapy

OVERVIEW

This standard relates to verifying prescriptions for individuals against a protocol. Your practice will be consistent with your occupational role and carried out under the regulatory and ethical frameworks established in the context of current legislation. You will work at all times within Standard Operating Procedures that relate to the way in which a pharmacy service is provided in your work place.Users of this standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies.Version No 2

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

You will need to know and understand:

1. legislation and protocols related to anti-cancer therapy
2. relevant pathology and biochemistry
3. principles of anti-cancer therapy including the:
    1. classification and mechanism of the action of drugs for treating cancers
    2. differentiation between drugs from same class
    3. modulation of anti-cancer therapy drugs by non- anti-cancer therapy agents
    4. pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of anti-cancer therapy and supportive therapies
    5. the need to measure and assess response, survival and other tumour outcomes for cancers
    6. the cell cycle and cell kill hypothesis
    7. the scheduling and basic principles of combination anti-cancer therapy
    8. adverse reactions
4. the need to monitor blood counts and organ function of individuals receiving anti-cancer therapy
5. prevention and treatment of common toxicities
6. the need for reducing the dose or delaying treatment for an individual with neutropenia and other conditions such as renal and hepatic impairment
7. the importance of documenting toxicities and of using standard toxicity assessment scales
8. the data required for calculating treatment according to treatment protocol
9. how to check all dose calculations and dose units are correct and have been calculated correctly according to the protocol and any other relevant local guidance
10. drug-drug, drug-food, drug-herb interactions and patient-drug allergies

11. your own level of competence and authority in the provision of advice to colleagues, individuals and carers
12. the disease progression and the potential impact on physiological systems
13. the relevance of other treatment and clinical conditions
14. the process where anti-cancer therapy regimens are approved at a local level and how to manage off protocol regimens according to local network guidance

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

You must be able to do the following:

1. work within the legislative framework and guidelines in your place of work including Standard Operating Procedures
2. collate the relevant patient demographics and individual treatment related data
3. check the regimen is the intended treatment as documented in a treatment plan, in the clinical notes or in the electronic record
4. check drug-drug, drug food, drug-herb interactions and patient-drug allergies
5. review evidence to support the use of treatment regimen
6. ensure treatment regimen has been through local approval processes, clinical governance and financial approval and/ or is included on a list of locally approved regimens
7. ensure the prescription request is complete, appropriate and achievable against agreed protocols including funding approval
8. check prescribers details and signature are present and confirm they are authorised to prescribe anti-cancer therapy
9. interpret data and select appropriate methodology according to protocol in order to calculate treatment dose
10. ensure monitoring of all relevant clinical parameters have been undertaken before treatment can proceed
11. check all dosing calculations and administrative instructions are according to protocols
12. recognise situations where you need to seek advice / support from appropriate sources and respond appropriately; in particular, where the complexity exceeds your personal level of competence or where there is reason for concern about the individual's suitability for the prescribed treatment
13. ensure that supportive medication has been prescribed appropriately
14. document and record the outcome of any pharmaceutical issues in accordance with Standard Operating Procedures
15. understand and advise on local and national policy in context of the use of anti-cancer therapeutic agent
16. sign and date the prescription in line with Standard Operating Procedures

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: HWB10 Products to meet health and wellbeing needs