PHARM51 Assess an Individual's fitness for chemotherapy treatment

OVERVIEW

This standard covers the assessment and re-assessment of adult individuals for chemotherapy. This includes both the initial assessment and all subsequent assessments undertaken by health professionals prior to the administration of chemotherapy. Assessment of children is excluded. 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 at all times work within Standard Operating Procedures that relate to the way in which a pharmacy service is provided in your place of work.

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 guidelines and their application in chemotherapy and the appropriate regimen
2. the guidelines for the administration of medicines
3. national and local guidelines for consent to chemotherapy, including clinical trials
4. the local guidelines for records, their storage and confidentiality of information
5. local guidelines for individual identification
6. the range of information which should be made available to the individual
7. the local guidelines for risk management and adverse incidents
8. the progression and prognosis of malignant disease
9. the appropriate treatment regimens and management of the disease along with possible complications
10. the prevention, management and supportive treatment regimens of the side effects of chemotherapy
11. the side effects of cytotoxic chemotherapy drugs, how to recognise them and the appropriate treatment regimens.
12. the mode of action and side effects of the cytotoxic chemotherapy regimen
13. drug-drug interactions
14. drug-food interactions
15. hypersensitivity, how to recognise, respond, manage and prevent if possible
16. how to recognise, respond, manage and prevent extravasation if possible
17. the psychological and emotional issues associated with cytotoxic chemotherapy treatment
18. the signs and symptoms of the individuals physical and emotional status
19. the medical terminology relevant to the treatment
20. the normal parameters for routine investigations
21. the range of resources available that offers appropriate support to the individual
22. how to ask questions, listen carefully and summarise back
23. how to adapt communication styles in ways which are appropriate to different people (e.g. culture, language or special needs)
24. the importance of obtaining full and accurate information about individuals and how to do so
25. the principle of confidentiality and what information may be given to whom
26. the principle of valid consent, and how to obtain valid consent from individuals
27. the limits of ones own knowledge and experience and the importance of not operating beyond these
28. the roles and responsibilities of other members of the multi-disciplinary team and associated agencies
29. the importance of clear communications with the individual and within the multi-disciplinary team
30. the importance of the individuals choice and the ways in which individuals can be supported to make an informed choice.

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 (SOPs)
2. Identify, access and evaluate all relevant information that applies to the individual and consult with colleagues so that you clearly understand the care pathway, current treatment, current and past medical history, changes in the individuals care needs, circumstances, choices and preferences
3. Read the individuals notes, prescription and relevant regimen protocol and identify any special instructions, investigations, (including abnormal blood test results) and issues for which you need to seek advice
4. Select and use the assessment process and documentation appropriate to the individuals care needs, circumstances, the procedure to be performed, and national and local guidelines
5. Check the treatment drugs against the treatment plan, protocol, regimen, prescription
6. Record the details of the treatment in the individuals notes, prescription chart
and records, as appropriate, according to local guidelines

7. Explain clearly to individuals:
   1. your own role and its scope, your responsibilities and accountability
   2. the information that will be obtained and stored in records and with whom this information might be shared
   3. what is involved in the assessment

8. Respect individuals privacy, dignity, wishes and beliefs, minimising any unnecessary discomfort (e.g. arrange a suitable setting for the assessment to preserve privacy and confidentiality)

9. Adapt your communication style according to the communication needs of the individual

10. Obtain individuals valid consent to the assessment process

11. Encourage full participation in the assessment (e.g. actively listen to the individual, seek to develop rapport and encourage to ask questions)

12. Establish the individuals health beliefs and understanding of their condition and treatment

13. Seek advice and support from an appropriate source when the needs of the individual and the complexity of the case are beyond your competence and capability

14. Assess the individuals physical condition, their fitness for treatment as well as their social psychological and emotional state and respond appropriately and refer to other agencies and personnel if required

15. Check that the individual and/or carer understands the treatment choices being offered, the implications of this choice and any potential side effects together with their management

16. Ensure that the individual understands their right to choose and support them in making an informed choice, as appropriate

17. Determine whether or not the individual is willing to proceed

18. Record the outcomes of the assessment clearly and accurately

19. Inform the individuals multi-disciplinary team on the outcome of the assessment

---

**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: HWB7 Interventions and treatments