

Administering antineoplastic drugs via different routes including oral, intravenous, subcutaneous, intramuscular, topical, intra-peritoneal and intravesical

Domain: Policies, procedures and guidelines

1. Complies with all Commonwealth, National and State legislation, policies and guidelines for:
 - a. the safe administration of antineoplastic drugs and
 - b. verification of patient identity using three appropriate patient identifiers.
2. Complies with all organisational policies, procedures and guidelines for:
 - a. handling, packaging, storage and transport of antineoplastic drugs,
 - b. health surveillance of employees,
 - c. administration of antineoplastic drugs via different routes including oral, intravenous, intrathecal, topical, subcutaneous, intramuscular, intraperitoneal, and intravesical,
 - d. waste management including: hazardous drug spill management, handling patients' body waste and waste associated with administration of antineoplastic drugs,
 - e. reporting of incidents and medication errors and
 - f. documentation of patient care.

Domain: Communication

1. Communicates effectively with patients, carers / family members and the treating team.
2. Demonstrates via accurate documentation in a patient's medical record:
 - a. provision of patient and carer / family members education,
 - b. patient assessment and associated care,
 - c. administration of antineoplastic drugs and
 - d. incidents and medication errors including extravasation injuries and hypersensitivity reactions.

Domain: General knowledge

1. Demonstrates self-awareness of limitations of clinical practice and seeks advice when necessary.
2. Understands the cell cycle including the different stages.
3. Identifies:
 - a. common causes of exposure to antineoplastic drugs and related waste,
 - b. correct use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when:
 - handling antineoplastic drugs and related waste,
 - administration of antineoplastic drugs via different routes including oral, intravenous, intrathecal, topical, subcutaneous, intramuscular, intraperitoneal and intravesical,
 - c. the effects of antineoplastic drugs on the cell cycle,
 - d. different drug classifications and their mechanism of action on the cell,
 - e. nursing implications for patients receiving treatment as part of a clinical trial,
 - f. the nurse's responsibilities relating to informed consent and assent for adult, young adult and paediatric patients receiving antineoplastic drug treatment,
 - g. antineoplastic drugs that have a potential to cause hypersensitivity reactions or extravasation injuries and
 - h. appropriate patient information resources to support patient care and education.

4. Describes:
 - a. the risks involved in the handling of antineoplastic drugs and the precautions required for health professionals, patients and carers / family members,
 - b. steps to minimise occupational exposure to antineoplastic drugs and related waste,
 - c. procedures for dealing with contamination and occupational exposure of health professionals to antineoplastic drugs and related waste,
 - d. health surveillance of employees handling antineoplastic drugs and related waste,
 - e. different routes of administration and implications for clinical practice,
 - f. side effects, drug specific side effects and toxicities associated with the administration of antineoplastic drugs,
 - g. signs and symptoms of hypersensitivity reactions and their management,
 - h. signs and symptoms of extravasation injuries,
 - i. management of extravasation injuries caused by vesicant, irritant and neutral antineoplastic drugs and
 - j. risk factors and steps to reduce risk of extravasation injuries when administering antineoplastic drugs via a peripheral or central venous access device.

Domain: Clinical skills

1. Practices within professional boundaries and organisational role descriptions.
2. Accesses information sources on:
 - a. guidelines for safe handling of antineoplastic drugs and related waste,
 - b. antineoplastic drug information,
 - c. antineoplastic drug treatment protocols,
 - d. hypersensitivity reactions and their management and
 - e. extravasation injuries and their management.
3. Accesses and provides appropriate resources to patients and carers / family members for:
 - a. provision of patient and carer / family members education, and
 - b. self management of side effects.
4. Demonstrates clinical skill in:
 - a. use of correct PPE when administering antineoplastic drugs via different routes and handling related waste,
 - b. reviewing and interpreting the prescribed antineoplastic drug treatment protocol to determine the:
 - risk of a hypersensitivity reaction for each prescribed drug,
 - risk of extravasation for each prescribed drug,
 - requirements for venous access,
 - supportive care required including pre and post hydration,
 - appropriate intravenous fluids for priming and flushing,
 - appropriate equipment including infusion pumps,
 - c. drug calculation of all prescribed antineoplastic drugs including supportive therapy for doses based on:
 - weight, BSA, AUC, mg / kg (aged based for paediatric or geriatric patients) and dose modifications,
 - d. comparing the patients' prescription chart(s) against the prescribed antineoplastic drug treatment protocol to confirm the prescription chart and all drug doses including timing of drugs is correct,
 - e. administering antineoplastic drugs via different routes ensuring the correct technique is used for intravenous, intramuscular, subcutaneous, intravesical and intraperitoneal routes,
 - f. ensuring the infusion rate is correct when administering intravenous antineoplastic drugs and

- g. administering supportive therapy as prescribed in the antineoplastic drug treatment protocol.
- 5. Responds appropriately to a deviation from the antineoplastic drug treatment protocol and identifies situations where dose reduction, dose delay or cessation may be necessary.
- 6. Demonstrates skill in management of peripheral and central venous access devices including assessment of site and patency of device.

Domain: Patient and carer / family member education

- 1. Describes key elements of education to include in patient and carer / family member's education.
- 2. Assesses the patient and carers / family member's knowledge about antineoplastic drug treatment before commencing education and following completion of education.
- 3. Discusses the patients and carers / family members goals for education sessions.
- 4. Plans education sessions and accesses appropriate resources based on diagnosis, planned treatment, health literacy and need for information.
- 5. Reinforces patients and carers / family members learning by repeating information in multiple sessions as opportunities arise e.g. upon return for subsequent cycles / treatment.
- 6. Provides appropriate education to patients and carers / family members on:
 - a. the prescribed treatment protocol including:
 - antineoplastic drugs to be administered,
 - routes of administration,
 - doses of each drug,
 - number and frequency of cycles,
 - b. managing side effects and toxicities of treatment,
 - c. rationale for dose modifications for side effects and toxicities and
 - d. safe handling of antineoplastic drugs and related waste e.g. vomit, soiled clothing.

Domain: Patient assessment

- 1. Completes a comprehensive patient assessment including clinical, physical and psychosocial assessment before administration of antineoplastic drugs.
- 2. Identifies specific clinical or physical assessment as outlined in the prescribed treatment protocol.
- 3. Accurately interprets assessment results and responds appropriately to findings from the comprehensive patient assessment.
- 4. Reports any abnormal findings to the treating team.
- 5. Discusses with the patient and carer / family members their response to previous treatments, e.g. side effects and their management.
- 6. Completes a patient review following the administration of treatment ensuring the effective discharge of the patient.