

Handling antineoplastic drugs & related waste safety

1. Comply with legislation, relevant guidelines and local organisation policies for:
 - a. handling, disposal, transport and storage of antineoplastic drugs,
 - b. waste management including hazardous drug spill management, handling patients' body waste and waste associated with administration of antineoplastic drugs,
 - c. health surveillance of employees and
 - d. first aid measures for accidental contamination.
2. Describe the:
 - a. routes of excretion of antineoplastic drugs,
 - b. sources of waste associated with administration of antineoplastic drugs,
 - c. management of hazardous drug spills and
 - d. management of personnel contamination to antineoplastic drugs or related waste.
3. Implement safe workplace practices to minimise the risk of:
 - a. occupational exposure to antineoplastic drugs or related waste for staff / patients / carers and
 - b. contamination of the environment with antineoplastic drugs or related waste.

Understanding how antineoplastic drugs work

1. Understand the cell cycle including the different stages.
2. Describe the:
 - a. effects of antineoplastic drug treatment on the cell cycle,
 - b. different antineoplastic drug classifications and their mechanism of action on the cell
 - c. common side effects, drug specific side effects and toxicities of antineoplastic drugs,
 - d. different routes for administration and implications for clinical practice and
 - e. safety issues and policy requirements associated with administration of intrathecal antineoplastic drugs.
3. Identify and access resources for information on antineoplastic drugs including side effects, drug specific side effects and toxicities.

Reviewing protocols and prescriptions

1. Identify and access resources for information on antineoplastic drug treatment protocols.
2. Review antineoplastic drug treatment protocols and correctly identify specific administration and supportive care requirements.
3. Identify the risk of a hypersensitivity reaction and / or risk of extravasation for the prescribed antineoplastic drugs.
4. Calculate drug doses using different calculations i.e. Body Surface Area (BSA), Area Under the Curve (AUC), mg / kg (aged based) and dose modifications for toxicity.
5. Compare the patient's prescription chart to the prescribed treatment protocol ensuring all doses and timing of antineoplastic drugs and supportive therapy are correct.
6. Respond appropriately to indications for changes in treatment and dose modifications according to the antineoplastic drug treatment protocol.
7. Describe the role of clinical trials in the management of patients with a cancer diagnosis.
8. Report incidents and medication errors according to organisational policies and procedures.

Educating the patient and carer / family members

1. Describe the potential and actual ethical issues in the care of patients receiving treatment for a cancer diagnosis including informed consent, assent, advocacy and duty of care.
2. Implement the key elements of education into education for patients and carers / family members.
3. Assess the information needs and learning requirements of patients and carers / family members before, during and after the administration of antineoplastic drugs.
4. Educate the patient and carer / family member about:
 - a. managing side effects and toxicities of antineoplastic drug treatment and
 - b. the difference between side effects and toxicities which require hospitalisation and those which can be managed at home.
5. Use supportive care resources and appropriate sources of patient information when providing education for patients and carers / family members.
6. Accurately document provision of education in a patient's medical record.

Assessing patients

1. Complete a comprehensive patient assessment including clinical, physical and psychosocial assessments before administration of antineoplastic drugs.
2. Assess a patient's venous access requirements according to the prescribed antineoplastic drug treatment protocol.
3. Assess a patient's venous access and refer for an appropriate device if required.
4. Complete and review all relevant clinical assessments required for specific antineoplastic drugs according to eviQ, or organisation specific treatment protocols or clinical trials information.
5. Describe and access information resources on the assessment and immediate management of hypersensitivity reactions.
6. Assess a patient's risk factors which may lead to an extravasation injury.
7. Complete all documentation at the conclusion of treatment and ensures the effective discharge for the patient.
8. Accurately document all assessment findings in a patient's medical record.

Administering oral antineoplastic drugs

1. Comply with legislation, relevant guidelines and local organisation policies for administration of oral antineoplastic drugs.
2. Complete an initial and then follow up physical, clinical and psychosocial assessment of the patient receiving oral antineoplastic drugs.
3. Implement key elements of education into education for patients and carers / family members about treatment with oral antineoplastic drugs.
4. Educate the patient and carer / family member about safety issues related to treatment with oral antineoplastic drugs.
5. Demonstrate the correct:
 - a. handling precautions when administering oral antineoplastic drugs,
 - b. procedure for the administration of oral antineoplastic drugs including use of personal protective equipment and
 - c. procedure for disposal of all associated equipment and clinical waste.
6. Accurately document administration of oral antineoplastic drugs in a patient's medical record.

Administering antineoplastic drugs

1. Comply with legislation, relevant guidelines and local organisation policies for administration of antineoplastic drugs.
2. Describe the core principles, processes and safety issues of administering antineoplastic drugs via different routes including intravenous, intramuscular, intraperitoneal, intravesical, topical, subcutaneous and intrathecal.
3. Implement the key elements of education into education for patients and carers / family member's education about treatment with antineoplastic drugs and routes of administration.
4. Educate the patient and carer / family member about safety issues related to treatment with antineoplastic drugs.
5. Identifies the specific safety issues relating to the administration of intravenous antineoplastic drugs via an infusion and bolus.
6. Ensure the appropriate access device is inserted before administration of antineoplastic drugs.
7. Demonstrate skill in management of peripheral and central venous access devices including assessment of site and patency of device.
8. Demonstrate the correct:
 - a. safe handling precautions when administering antineoplastic drugs including intravenous, intramuscular, intraperitoneal, intravesical, topical, subcutaneous and intrathecal,
 - b. preventative measures to minimise extravasation injuries,
 - c. procedure for the administration of antineoplastic drugs via different routes including use of personal protective equipment and
 - d. procedure for disposal of all associated equipment and clinical waste.
9. Describe the:
 - e. signs and symptoms of an extravasation injury, and
 - f. immediate and long-term management of a suspected or actual extravasation injury.
10. Access information sources on:
 - g. guidelines for safe handling of antineoplastic drugs and related waste,
 - h. antineoplastic drug information,
 - i. antineoplastic drug treatment protocols and
 - j. extravasation injuries and their management.
11. Accurately document in a patient's medical record:
 - k. administration of antineoplastic drugs and
 - l. incidents and medication errors.