

## **CHEMOTHERAPY STANDARD OF CARE**

### **OBJECTIVES:**

1. To administer chemotherapeutic agent(s) safely.
2. To promote patient/significant other's understanding of disease/chemotherapy and side effects associated with chemotherapeutic agents.
3. To prevent/minimize complications and side effects.
4. To provide emotional support and decrease anxiety.

### **PROCESS STANDARDS:**

1. A Registered Nurse, **only** with documented competency as defined in Nursing Policy (C46), shall administer/monitor a patient receiving chemotherapy.
2. The patient/significant other will receive education on the purpose, management, administration, and side effects of the chemotherapeutic agent, based on readiness to learn and barriers to learning.
3. The patient will have a baseline assessment, including vital signs and neurological findings (if applicable) performed prior to administration of the chemotherapeutic agent.
4. The physician shall be notified of any significant/abnormal lab values, and/or vital signs prior to, during, and post administration.
5. The patient's IV access will be assessed for stabilized placement, erythema, pain, and/or tenderness. Validation of patency will be evidenced by free flowing strong blood return prior to and at frequent intervals during administration of the chemotherapeutic agent.
6. The chemotherapeutic agent will be administered in accordance with established National Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) Standards and recommendations and policy and procedure, including safe handling and administration.
7. An infusion pump will be utilized to administer medications to be continuously infused within a specified time frame, excluding agents to be administered IVP.
8. The patient will be encouraged to express any feelings, concerns, fears, etc., regarding chemotherapy with a supportive and a non-judgmental attitude maintained by the nurse.
9. The patient will be instructed to report significant sensations (i.e. burning, stinging, anaphylactoid reaction) during and after infusion is completed.

### **OUTCOME STANDARDS:**

1. The patient/significant others will express understanding of the purpose of chemotherapy, the drug, side effects, and how to obtain assistance should complications or adverse reactions occur.

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### **OUTCOME STANDARDS continued:**

2. Patient will experience minimal side effects from the chemotherapy regimen and any side effects will have been managed.
3. The patient will communicate understanding of informed consent for administering chemotherapy and satisfaction with the emotional support provided.

### **HAVE I DOCUMENTED:**

- \* Patient Teaching
  - Chemotherapy purpose
  - Administration
  - Management of side effects from chemo agents
  - Significant sensations to report, burning, stinging, anaphylactoid reaction
- \* Baseline assessment prior to administration
- \* Prevention of infection, including safe handling and administration
- \* IV line access
  - Stabilized placement
  - Patency as evidenced by free flowing strong blood return prior to and at frequent intervals during administration
- \* Second nurse verification

### **At The Time of Discharge:**

- \* Patient/family has understanding of home and follow-up care
- \* Diet
- \* Significant signs and symptoms to report to MD/nurse

### **Reference:**

1. Brown, K., Esper, P., ONS Press, Inc., Chemotherapy and biotherapy guidelines and recommendations for practice, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, 2009.
2. Iwamoto, R.R., Rumsey, K.A., Sommers, B.L., ANA, and ONS. Statement on the Scope and Standard of Oncology Nursing Practice, 1996, 6<sup>th</sup> Printing., Last edited: 2003. American Nurses Publishing Company: Washington.
3. Gullatte, M.M., A Chemotherapy Handbook, Clinical Guide to Antineoplastic Therapy, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., (2007). ONS (Oncology Nursing Society) Press.