

## **Antineoplastic: Deployment of Chemotherapy Certified Nurses for the Administration of Antineoplastic Drugs (Hematology)**

### **Site Applicability**

All PHC sites where antineoplastic chemotherapy is administered

### **Practice Level**

Specialized for Registered Nurses: PHC or B.C. Cancer Agency (BCCA) Chemotherapy Certification is required to administer antineoplastic drugs (hematology).

### **Policy Statements**

1. Only chemotherapy certified nurses may administer antineoplastic drugs (for hematology oncology).
2. Only a Medical Short Stay Unit chemotherapy certified nurse may administer vesicant antineoplastic drugs via peripheral IV access

### **Protocol**

#### **Assessment and Interventions**

If appropriate, before arranging deployment of a chemotherapy certified nurse, contact the prescribing hematologist to request changing the start date of the antineoplastic drug treatment by one (1) day.

When an antineoplastic drug is prescribed:

- Arrangements for the deployment of a chemotherapy certified nurse to administer the drug must be made in advance
- The prescribing nursing unit must contact the 7D Clinical Nurse Leader as soon as is able or *no later than 13:00 the **day before*** the drug is to be administered. If the prescribing unit is unable to contact the 7D Clinical Nurse Leader before 13:00 the day before, the prescribing unit will contact the Clinical Coordinator.

#### **Prescribing Nursing Unit**

Clinical Nurse Leader or designate contacts the 7D clinical nurse leader or designate and advises:

- Patient name
- Antineoplastic drug(s) and route of administration and/or hematological malignancy antineoplastic drug protocol that has been prescribed
- Patient's current (or planned for in advance of antineoplastic drug) vascular access
- Details of prescription are reviewed:
  - Identify prescribed antineoplastic drug(s)

- Duration of administration(s)
  - Date(s) and time(s) of administration
- Provides the deployed chemotherapy certified nurse with a brief orientation to the nursing unit.

### 7D Clinical Nurse Leader

- If the antineoplastic drug(s) prescribed are vesicants and the patient does not *have central venous access* the 7D clinical nurse leader will:
  - Request an urgent PICC insertion for the patient. Should this not be possible, proceed with the bullets below.
  - Refer to [B-00-13-10137](#) - Antineoplastic (Vesicants) for Inpatients at SPH (Administered on MSSU) \*AND\*
  - Complete **Medical Short Stay Unit Inpatient Checklist (NF293)**
  - Contact the Medical Short Stay Unit Clinical Nurse Leader
- Will contact the prescribing nursing unit clinical Nurse Leader or designate and advise:
  - Name of the chemotherapy certified nurse(s) who will be deployed to administer the drug(s)
  - Date(s) and time(s) to expect the chemotherapy certified nurse
  - How long the chemotherapy certified nurse will be deployed
- Will contact the Clinical Nurse Specialist (chemotherapy)
- CNS will contact/visit prescribing unit and assess the nursing staff and/or patient and family for learning needs and/or need for resources

### Chemotherapy Certified Nurse

- Will sign-in on flow-sheet on both home unit and on deployed-to unit
- Will be responsible for the administration of the prescribed antineoplastic and/or biotherapy as per [B-00-13-10148](#) - Antineoplastic: Administration of Parenteral Antineoplastic Drugs (Hematology) and may include pre-assessment and preparation, set-up, assessment during administration, take-down, patient and family education/support, staff education/support.
- Pre-medications can be administered by either the prescribing unit nursing staff or by the chemotherapy certified nurse
- Vital signs can be completed by either the prescribing unit nursing staff or by the chemotherapy certified nurse
- The chemotherapy certified nurse will remain with the patient as described below:
  - When only one (1) agent is to be administered on a given day – the chemotherapy certified nurse will stay for the entire antineoplastic infusion (i.e. intermittent infusions; administration of subcutaneous antineoplastic; vesicant administration via peripheral access)

- For combination antineoplastic therapy (more than one antineoplastic/biotherapy drug) administered on the same day – the chemotherapy certified nurse will remain with the patient for the duration (as much as 8 hours)
- To initiate a lengthy infusion (i.e. infusions that may last up to 7 days) the chemotherapy certified nurse will remain with the patient for at least 60 minutes. It is recommended that the clinical nurse specialist for chemotherapy or delegate attend to the prescribing unit in the following days while the patient is receiving the antineoplastic/biotherapy infusion to assess the patient and to assess staff learning needs.
- Will provide prescribing nursing unit nursing staff with support and resources related to the care of the patient receiving an antineoplastic drug.

## Related Documents

1. [B-00-13-10137](#) - Antineoplastic (Vesicants) for Inpatients at SPH (Administered on MSSU)
2. [B-00-13-10148](#) - Antineoplastic: Administration of Parenteral Antineoplastic Drugs (Hematology)

### Persons/Groups Consulted:

Patient Care Manager – SPH Medicine  
 Patient Care Manager – SPH Outpatients  
 Clinical Coordinator  
 Clinical Nurse Leader – SPH Medicine  
 Clinical Nurse Leader – SPH Medical Short Stay Unit

### Developed By:

Clinical Nurse Specialist – Chemotherapy

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