

Plan of Care- Oral Systemic Therapy for Cancer

INPATIENTS and LTC RESIDENTS-

Patient: _____

MRN: _____ Medical Record No.

Date of Birth: _____ yyyy/mm/dd

Plan of Care for:

Hospital Inpatients and Long Term Care residents receiving oral Systemic Therapy for cancer (also known as chemotherapy)

Key Standards of Care:

1. The oncologist or hematologist has been informed that this patient is admitted to the unit/facility and will determine if this systemic therapy will be continued.
2. The Registered Nurse (RN) will determine the most appropriate nurse (e.g. RN, LPN) to administer the oral systemic therapy drug
3. Staff are aware of safe handling practices for the oral systemic therapy drug(s) to promote occupational safety and patient safety

Client Outcomes: Patient or Resident will:

- State accurate information about treatment plan (indication, medication schedule, blood work schedule, appointments)
- Identify and explain signs and symptoms of adverse side effects and/or toxicities
- Explain actions to take if symptoms occur (ie: fever, rash, neuropathy, onc emergency)
- Explain principles of safe handling with cytotoxic drugs
- Verbalize concerns or need for clarification about treatment plan
- Know when to seek help from a health care professional

Nursing Interventions: (initial as completed)

___ Ensure an oncologist has determined that the systemic therapy will be started or continued. If ordered by other than an oncologist, ensure that an oncologist has been consulted and is aware that patient has been admitted.

___ If the facility does not supply the oral systemic therapy drug(s), verify that the patient has brought their own supply and that the drug(s) has been approved for use by the patient, according to facility policy (e.g. use of patients' own medications policy)

___ Verify drug label matches the order with another nurse (independent double check of these high alert medications).

___ RNs cannot accept telephone orders for systemic therapy drugs or adjustments to systemic therapy drug doses except to hold or stop systemic therapy drug administration.

___ RN determines the most appropriate nurse (e.g. RN, LPN) to administer the oral systemic therapy drug. Refer to institutional policy, where available

- Registered Nurses will be responsible for administration of:
 - First cycle/dose(s)
 - Doses if new toxicities are identified and/or doses require modification
 - Clinical trials drugs
 - Drugs given to patients with unstable clinical status (e.g. poor performance status) or unpredictable outcomes
- Licensed Practical Nurses may be delegated responsibility for administration of:
 - Low or medium complexity of treatment (e.g. oral drug is not part of a regimen including IV chemo) or patient complexity (e.g. patient is clinically stable)
 - Predictable outcomes from treatment

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- ___ Assess patient's knowledge of treatment plan.
- ___ Determine that each nurse involved in the patient's care is knowledgeable on the medication(s) including indications, adverse effects and any other special considerations prior to administration.
 - Refer to the Cancer Care Nova Scotia (CCNS) website (www.cancercare.ns.ca) for the "**Systemic Therapy Manual**", Medication Info Sheets, Adverse Drug Reaction Management , and other drug information to guide your assessment.
- ___ Review safe handling and disposal before administration of the medication. Refer to institutional policy, where available
 - Always wear gloves, or other personal protective equipment, when administering oral systemic therapy
 - Discard any equipment used in cytotoxic waste containers.
 - Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water before and after handling oral systemic therapy drugs.
 - Do not alter the oral systemic therapy medication. Contact Pharmacy if the medication needs to be crushed, split, opened or cut.
- ___ Initiate safe handling precautions for the duration of the systemic therapy treatment and for 48 hours following the last dose. Refer to Medication Info Sheet for drug-specific information.
- ___ Keep oral systemic therapy separate from other medications in a sealed container and protect from heat, sunlight or moisture. The medication bottles may be labeled as "cytotoxic" which indicates the need for special handling. Refer to Medication Info Sheet for drug-specific information.
- ___ Return any unused oral systemic therapy medication to the pharmacy.
- ___ Assess patient for signs of toxicity. Assessment should include, but is not limited to, vital signs, blood work, physical assessment including oral, neuro, GI, and skin assessment.
- ___ Inform the oncologist of any side effects the patient may be experiencing.

Patient/ Family Teaching and Discharge Planning:

- ___ Ensure patient has prescriptions needed (including supportive medications, such as antiemetics, pain)
- ___ Provide patient with informational handouts (e.g. Medication Info Sheet(s), Cytotoxic Precautions in the Home- on the CCNS website).
- ___ Use teach back method to ensure patient understanding.
- ___ Ensure patient has follow up appointments with oncologist (e.g. in Cancer Center)
 - May complete a patient-specific calendar with follow-up appointment times, etc.
- ___ Provide information for resources available, such as Cancer Patient Navigator, Medication Resource Specialist, Social Worker, Dietician, support groups. Refer as appropriate.

COMMENTS: _____

Date	Initial	Signature	Date	Initial	Signature