

# 2021 RN SKILLS DAY

## PO CHEMOTHERAPY



### Consents

- All newly ordered PO chemotherapy requires a **Chemotherapy Specific Consent**, if this is not a new chemotherapy for the patient and there are no changes to the dose, a consent is not required. If no consent required, document this information in an SBAR.
- Locate the chemotherapy consents on your unit. If needed, ask your manager to order these consents.

### Extended Precautions

- As of January 2020, a new policy went into effect, requiring some chemotherapy to have precautions that extend longer than 48 hours. Several of our commonly used chemotherapies require this extended precautions period. For example, Methotrexate requires chemotherapy precautions to remain in effect for 5 days (120 hours). For a complete list of those drugs, requiring a longer precautions period see policy 8720.03165.021 titled “Chemotherapy Extended Precautions List”. If the drug you are administering is not on this list, precautions remain in place for 48 hours.

### Verification Process

When administering PO Chemotherapy the RN must verify:

- Drug is appropriate for diagnosis
- Dose is appropriate for diagnosis
- Calculate Dose with a two RN independent verification process (both nurses must be PO chemotherapy competent).
- Labs are reviewed and appropriate for administration (CBC, CMP and any drug specific labs)
- Consent is obtained or in the chart
- Provided or reinforce education

**Home Medications:** Question the appropriateness of home medications. Home medications are frequently not appropriate for administration when admitted, based on the patients admitting diagnosis. For example, if the patient's admitting diagnosis is infection the chemotherapy is generally held due to the side effect of immunosuppression. Other admitting diagnoses to be cautious of include acute renal failure, increased liver enzyme, and trauma resulting in any internal bleeding (this is not a complete list, review drug specific contraindications)

## Precautions

- Obtain a chemotherapy precaution cart and place outside of the patient's room
- Place a chemotherapy precautions armband on the patient, from the time of administration until at least 48 hours after last dose.
- Place a chemotherapy precaution sign outside the patient's room, above the bed and a "double flush toilet" sign in the bathroom.
- Place the YELLOW chemotherapy biohazardous waste container in the room and line with yellow chemotherapy trash liner.
- **Always wear** Chemotherapy gloves and gown when handling urine, stool or any other body fluids, mask and googles are also encouraged.
- Educate patient and family on chemotherapy precautions.
- Cover the toilet with a blue back-sided chux pad (provided in the chemotherapy cart) and flush the toilet twice. Dispose of **single use** chux in the chemotherapy trash can after use.
- Linens contaminated by bodily fluids should be placed in a laundry bag labeled chemotherapy and sent to laundry services ASAP.
- Label all lab specimens with a chemotherapy sticker (supplied in chemotherapy cart)
- All patients on chemotherapy will be on strict intake and output and on a daily weight.
- Dispose of all sharps in the yellow chemotherapy sharps container on side of Chemotherapy Cart.

## Education Resources and Responsibilities

- Educate the patient on potential side effects of administered chemotherapy.
- Educate patient, family and other staff members about chemotherapy precautions.
- Educate other staff caring for patient about signs/ symptoms to monitor for, and specific labs to monitor.

## Questions

- Contact Jaime Anderson ONN if you have any questions regarding this education, PO Chemotherapy, Chemotherapy Precautions, or Chemotherapy Safety at Extension: 26265 or Email at [janderson2@sarh.org](mailto:janderson2@sarh.org)

**Online Quiz to be completed by all PO  
Chemotherapy RN's**