

Pretreatment Assessment

A thorough assessment prior to antineoplastic administration helps prevent errors and minimize risk for complications and apply to all routes and classes of antineoplastic administration. The patient's medical record should be reviewed for disease type/stage and current cancer status. Review past medical history, current medications and allergies, current height and weight, comorbidities, and prior cancer treatment (cumulative doses when applicable). Confirm presence of informed consent, and address any patient/caregiver questions or concerns, and discrepancies in findings of assessment.

Pre-Administration Verification

- Review of laboratory values & radiologic exams as needed (PFTs, MUGA etc.)
- Two professionals competent in chemotherapy administration independently verify:
 - Two patient identifiers
 - Accuracy of antineoplastic regimen, dose, route, and schedule
 - Treatment plan, cycle, and day where applicable
 - Route of administration
 - Compatibility of IV solution/concurrent medications
 - Supportive care treatment is ordered as appropriate

Administration Checklist

- Compare medication label with the treatment order
- Check appearance and physical integrity of the medication
- Confirm presence of blood return for IV medication administration
- Immediately verify accuracy of pump programming with another chemotherapy professional upon initiation and with any rate change

Post Administration Considerations

- Refer to institutional policy for frequency of rate and blood return checks based on drug, type of access, etc.
- Dispose of agent and administration tubing if applicable according to hazardous drug waste policy
- Document medication administration and patient response

Clinical Pearls and Application

- Multi-drug regimens should specify the sequence of drug administration within order.
- Ensure agent or protocol specific considerations are applied.

Bibliography

Olsen, M., LeFebvre, K., & Brassil, K. (Eds.). (2019). *Chemotherapy and immunotherapy guidelines and recommendations for practice*. Pittsburgh: Oncology Nursing Society.

Neuss, M.N. et al. (2017). 2016 Updated American Society of Clinical Oncology and Oncology Nursing Society chemotherapy administration safety standards, including standards for pediatric oncology. *ONF44*(1), 31-43.

© 2022 Oncology Nursing Society
March 2022