BC CANCER
Provincial Health Services Authority

Pharmacy

Medication

Checks

Module 2

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Section A

A.1 Clinical Medication Order Check

Standard:

The following must be reviewed and verified by a pharmacist for all parenteral, oral and topical oncology prescriptions prior to dispensing:[1]

- **pharmacy medication profile**
- **protocol code and cycle number (if appropriate)**
- **drug, dose (a maximum of a 5% variance is permitted in dose calculation unless a variance is prohibited by the treatment protocol), route, administration, timing and duration of each medication ordered; for cyclical therapies, no more than one cycle of medication will be dispensed at a time**
- **benefit status of the medication(s) and receipt of appropriate approval forms, if required**
- **patient-specific factors including allergies, alerts, and protocol required laboratory values; for new patients or patients beginning a new course of cancer treatment, baseline tests must have been conducted within four weeks of the start of therapy**
- **body surface area, calculated by the Mosteller equation, for the first treatment of each chemotherapy protocol only (based on actual body weight except for the designated high dose protocols described above, where ideal body weight is used) unless recalculated by the physician and documented in the patient's chart - if required for the cancer treatment being prescribed**

With each successive treatment, the pharmacist should verify the cycle number, day of cycle and that the appropriate time interval has passed since the previous treatment.[2]

Refer to BC Cancer Systemic Therapy Policy Number III-10 - Systemic Therapy Treatment Delivery Process

Refer to The Clinical Pharmacy Guide: Cancer Drug Assessment and Review

A.2 Final Product and Computer Order Entry Check

Standard:

The final product must be checked prior to dispensing:

- **the volume/quantity calculation must be double checked, all components used must be appropriate and a visual inspection of the final product must be performed[3]**
- **the drug volume(s) added to a final container must match the dose prescribed on the medication order[2]**
  - **reconstitution solution and volumes must be checked by any qualified person other than the individual who measured the solution[4,5]**

Note:

- Once the solution has been injected, drawing back the syringe plunger to indicate the volume of solution used in the preparation of parenteral admixtures is subject to recall bias;[6] therefore, syringes should be marked with a line indicating the volume of solution in the syringe while the solution is in the syringe.

Standard:

The computer order entry on the patient-specific label must be checked for accuracy.[1]

The patient-specific label must be:

- **affixed to the correct final product container;**
- **checked for completion; and**
- **checked that it accurately reflects what is written on the corresponding medication order.[5]**

The final product must have the appropriate patient specific label, a HD warning label (if applicable) and any necessary auxiliary warning labels affixed to the container.[2,4]

Refer to Checklists - Module 2 - Appendix 1: Using an Inspection Light Box to Check the Final Parenteral Product for Particulate Matter

Section B

B.1 Documentation of Pharmacy Medication Checks

Standard:

Standard operating procedures must be developed which include signed documentation that all the required pharmacy checks have been completed for each medication.[2]

- **the pharmacist performing the clinical medication order review must indicate that the order is approved for preparation by documenting on the appropriate form prior to compounding[1]**
- **the person performing the computer order entry (e.g., patient label) check must indicate the computer order entry is accurate as per the medication order by documenting on a permanent record[2]**
- **the person performing the final product check must indicate by documenting on a permanent record that they have performed a complete final product check[2]**

References

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6. ISMP Canada. ISMP Medication Safety Alert! Post-production IV admixture checks less than ideal. 2010;15(13)