

Cytotoxic Drug Administration

POLICY

Westmont Community Care nursing staff may be involved in administering cytotoxic drugs in the consumer's home.

When establishing a drug administration area in the consumers home a risk management framework will be applied to ensure that cytotoxic drugs are safely administered.

PROCEDURES

Administration

Exposure while administering drugs may occur through:

- Handling cytotoxic drugs
- Spills
- Splashes to the skin or eyes
- Inhalation of airborne contaminants
- Sharps injuries

Nursing staff will apply the hierarchy of control measures to the administration of cytotoxic drugs and ensure the following risk control measures are implemented:

- Only undertake a drug administration service with risk control measures
- Use closed drug administration devices where possible
- Follow correct administration procedures
- Drugs intended for administration are appropriately packaged, labelled and ready to use
- Cytotoxic orders will be identified by using a specific cytotoxic medication chart
- Ensure secure and labelled storage of waste and sharps containers to minimise exposure to cytotoxic waste
- Provide information, training and education about the side effects of cytotoxic drugs to the consumer and carer
- Ensure that equipment used are well maintained and in good working order
- Ensure access to emergency equipment (for emergency procedures) is available
- Correct PPE is used for the administration of all cytotoxic drugs

Drug Administration Area

Nursing staff will ensure:

- Sufficient room for movement of staff around the consumer during drug administration
- Secure storage of cytotoxic waste and sharps containers
- Secure storage of cytotoxic waste ready for disposal
- Washable chairs and other furnishings (where possible)
- Liquid resistant mattress covers (where possible)
- A system for obtaining and updating health and safety information such as safety data sheets, in a place accessible to nursing staff
- Hand-washing facilities
- Facilities for storage and disposal of PPE
- Secure storage facilities for cytotoxic drugs
- Ensure there are pre-administration checklist strategies for nursing staff

Cytotoxic Drug Administration

Prior to administration the nursing staff must ensure the consumer is deemed fit for treatment.

Pre-treatment assessment, at baseline and prior to each cycle, will include:

- Review the full blood count, renal and liver function tests prior to each treatment cycle and as recommended and notify the consumers GP if the blood parameters are abnormal
- Review symptom/side effect toxicity
- Allergy and drug reaction history
- Performance status
- Weight, height, body surface area and any changes in weight of more than 10% is referred to the consumers GP
- Psychosocial screening
- Consumer or carer consent gained
- Use recommended equipment

Safe Work Practices

Safe work practices will include:

- Identifying consumers undergoing cytotoxic drug treatment
- Correct use of PPE
- Appropriate administration techniques
- Appropriate management of cytotoxic waste
- A documented spill management strategy which includes
 - Advice to clean up spills immediately
 - Written instructions on how to manage a spill in an ambulatory situation
 - Information on the contents of a spill kit
- Laundering contaminated linen and clothing

Caring for Consumers in their Home

All nursing staff administering cytotoxic drug therapy in the consumer's home must:

- Be adequately trained and competency assessed to do so
- Ensure that all cytotoxic drugs taken into a consumer's home are appropriately packaged and labelled
- Ensure the equipment meets recommended standards
- Prepare cytotoxic drug therapy under the same conditions as all other cytotoxic drug therapies

Before proceeding with cytotoxic drug therapy, the nurse will verify that the following facilities are available:

- Hand washing facilities
- Laundry facilities
- Access to a flushable toilet
- Appropriate waste disposal
- A consumer administration area, preferably set up in a non-carpeted area of the home

The nursing staff will verify that the following equipment is available:

- Spill kit (suitable for home use) and instructions
- Cleaning and decontaminating agents
- Approved container for sharps
- Cytotoxic waste container/bag
- Personal protective equipment
- Extravasation kit
- Safety data sheet relevant for the cytotoxic drug
- Details of whom to contact in case of an emergency

Consumers, family and carers will be provided with education, including written health and safety information.

Date approved:	February 2021	By Department:	DCC		
Updated:	January 2022				Minor wording changes.
To be reviewed:	February 2024	By Department:		Key changes:	