

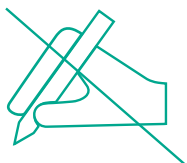
HOW TO AVOID MEDICATION ERRORS AND ASSOCIATED COSTS IN CHEMOTHERAPY



Reporting system: Design a simple incident reporting form, make sure the forms are freely available, and encourage reporting.¹



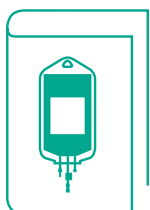
Standard forms: Use a standardized chemotherapy order form for both parenteral and oral anticancer drugs.²



Digital prescriptions: Discourage handwritten prescriptions.³



Staff training: Make drug information available electronically, and train all staff involved (doctors, pharmacists, nurses) to use this electronic information.²



Drug guidelines: Develop drug guidelines that cover parameters regarding dose information, infusion, hydration, antiemetic and supportive care. Make sure to update this information as often as necessary.²



Barcode System: Set up and use barcode systems, which electronically verify the "5 rights" of medication application: right patient, right drug, right dose, right time and right route.⁴



Lab first: Make sure that critically important lab results are available before drug dispensing and application.²



Labels: Ensure that vials, syringes etc. are labeled clearly and unambiguously.²

Sources:

1 Fetherston T, Community Eye Health 2015;28:26-27.

2 Kloth D D, Chemotherapy Medication Errors 2010; https://www.clinicaloncology.com/download/pg1012_mederrors_conc0610_WM.pdf.

3 Hartel M J et al, BMC Health Serv Res 2011;11:199.

4 Shah K et al, Can J Hosp Pharm 2016;69:394-402.