

Chemotherapy Administration in the Perioperative Setting: An EBP Project

Background

- Administration of chemotherapeutic substances is increasing in frequency
- Standard chemotherapy administration policies have previously focused on inpatient and outpatient chemotherapy infusion administration
- A gap in coverage exists for the types of administration in the perioperative setting
- Perioperative nursing staff need a targeted policy to support practice



Project Goals

Assess needs of perioperative chemotherapy administration:

- Routes and agents administered
- Sterile field maintenance during administration
- Review current policies for perioperative administration
- Develop safety guidelines for perioperative staff including medication administration routes and perioperative-specific needs

Implementation Considerations:

- Clear safety directives for perioperative staff
- Concise explanation of how chemotherapy should be handled on and off the sterile field
- Culture of safety to support staff
- Documentation guidelines
- Collaborate with multidisciplinary teams such as pharmacy, sterile processing, environmental services, and administration to form a comprehensive plan
- Ensure all equipment and supplies are available

Implications for Practice

Chemotherapeutic agents are used across multiple perioperative specialties and administered through various routes:

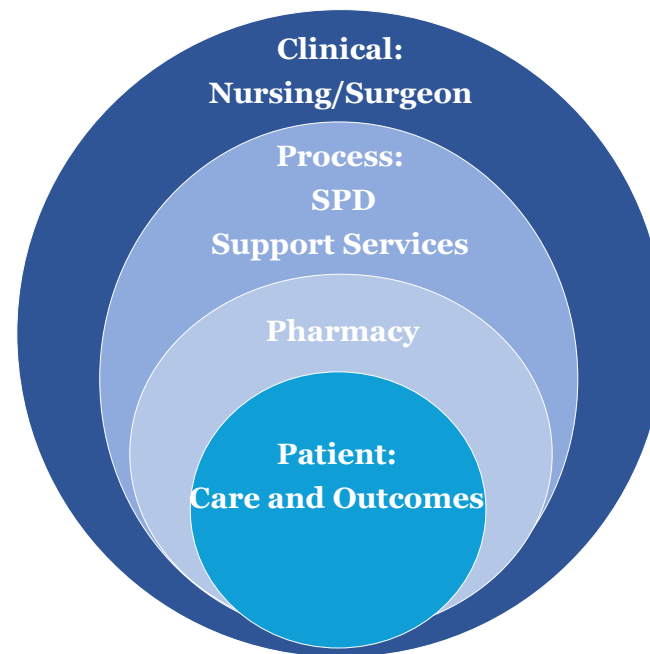
- Topical
- Intravesicle
- Injection
- Intraperitoneal infusion
- Coated delivery devices

Because of varied types of administration, precautions to protect patients and staff must be flexible and evolve as procedures do.

Recommendations

Develop a perioperative specific chemotherapy policy that includes considerations and precautions for use within the perioperative setting:

- Handling and storage recommendations
- Methods to minimize agent exposure during administration
- PPE requirements
- Spill cleanup equipment such as a chemo spill cart
- Delivery methods to sterile field
- Postoperative considerations
- Confirm equipment such as suction systems that can be used during chemo administration
- Develop post procedure cleanup and disposal guidelines
- Annual education and competencies



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