

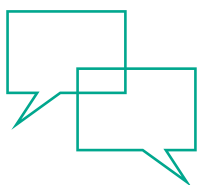
HOW TO AVOID MEDICATION ERRORS IN CHEMOTHERAPY



Ensure complete documentation. Consider installing a "patient passport" with all information.¹



Make sure staff are adequately trained.²



Aim for good communication between doctors and pharmacists: both should attend cancer conferences, and both should be prepared to listen to the other expert's opinion.³



Use accurate and unambiguous chemotherapy orders. Avoid verbal orders.⁴



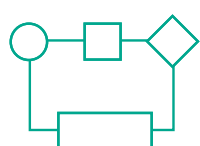
Employ high technology: computerized physician order entry,² cytostatics software, error proofing systems.



Employ low technology: High-quality fax machine, write clearly, use generic names and TALLman lettering (apply uppercase lettering to sections of look-alike, sound-alike, drugs to highlight points of dissimilarity).²



Set up a "Critical Incident Reporting System" (CIRS) to report mistakes and near misses; set up a patient safety committee.^{4,5}



Use algorithms to plan the treatment course of every patient, as it is almost impossible to keep up with every new development, approval and guidelines regarding chemotherapy drugs.⁶



Sources:

1 Car L T et al, Journal of global health, 2017. 7 (1).

2 Schulmeister L, Oncologist 2006; 11: 463-648.

3 Theophanous-Kitiri S, Clin Pharm Intervent Oncol 2012; 3-4: 8-12.

4 Shahriari M et al, J Bacetriol mycol Open Access 2017.

5 Weiss B D et al, J Oncol Pract 2017; 13: e329-e336.

6 Interview with Mathias Nietzsche, Head of Departmet for Chemotherapie Drugs at St.-Johannes-Hospital Dortmund, 2018.