



Patient/Family Education (Cytotoxic Therapy) Procedure

Procedure Number

CHC-CYT-008

Version Nos:

4

1. Purpose

This Procedure outlines the process for ensuring that patients and their family/whanau/caregivers receive adequate information prior to giving consent to commence Cytotoxic therapy.

2. Application

This Procedure is to be followed by all clinical staff throughout the West Coast District Health Board (WCDHB).

3. Definitions

For the purposes of this Procedure:

Cytotoxic medications is taken to mean toxic compounds known to have carcinogenic, mutagenic and/or teratogenic potential.

Oncology Nurse Specialist is an oncology trained nurse who is available to act as a resource for medical and nursing staff regarding the administration and management of Cytotoxic medications.

4. Responsibilities

For the purposes of this Procedure:

all **Clinical Staff** are required to:

- provide cares and treatments as per the requirements of this Procedure
- document all observations and cares and treatments given

5. Resources Required

This Procedure requires:

- i) Cytotoxic Medication
- ii) Patient's Clinical Record

6. Process

- 1.00 Patients and their family/whanau/caregivers are to receive adequate information prior to giving consent to commence Cytotoxic therapy. This is to include:
 - i) Nature of illness and the goal of chemotherapy.
 - ii) Proposed treatment plan.
 - iii) Significant risks, associated side effects and toxicity of treatment.
 - iv) Self care responsibilities to maintain wellness and minimise potential risks.
- 1.01 The relevant Doctor is responsible for obtaining written informed consent for the treatment (as per the requirements of the *WCDHB Informed Consent Procedure*). The nurse is to act as a resource person to provide supplemental information.
- 1.02 The patient is to be given information regarding how to contact the Hospital should they become unwell following treatment.



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- 1.03 The nurse is to ascertain if the patient has:
- Adequate support at home and that the family supports are aware of how to assist the patient in maintaining wellness and the potential risks involved.
 - Follow up care in the community (outreach nurses, district or palliative care nurses).
 - Had anxieties and questions answered.
 - Follow up treatment organised.

7. Precautions And Considerations

- ➔ Patients and their family/whanau/caregivers are to receive adequate information
- ➔ The relevant Doctor is responsible for obtaining written informed consent
- ➔ Patient is to be given information regarding how to contact the Hospital should they become unwell

8. References

The Cytotoxics Handbook, 1997, 3rd Edition, Radcliffe Medical Press.

Canterbury DHB Policy and Procedure Manuel, Christchurch Hospital Vol F Fluid and Medication Management Section15

9. Related Documents

WCDHB Oncology/Cytotoxic Procedures

Revision History	Version:	4
	Developed By:	Oncology Nurse Specialist
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