

Referral

- Referral to an out of area hospital
 - Anxiety about the condition
 - Distances travelled
 - Distance from family
 - Accommodation
 - Point of contact

Need for information

Pain control, possibility of hallucinations

Drains

Operation

Stoma

Chemotherapy and side effects

Overnight ventilation

Post operative care

Family

- Anxiety
- Have contact telephone number
- Diversional therapy

Nursing care

- Time
- Effects of chemotherapy
 - Fatigue
 - Mobility
 - Nausea
 - Pain control
 - Changes to sense of taste and smell
 - Diet

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- Family
 - Information about patient
 - Surgery
 - Future diet
 - Stoma
 - Future chemotherapy
 - Need to know what their parameters are
 - How much help can be given

Chemotherapy, Health and Safety

- Personal safety
- Patient safety
- Environmental

Guidance

- **National Guidance**
 - Cancer measures
 - Royal College of Nursing

- Health and Safety Executive
 - 5 steps to risk assessment
 - Identify hazards
 - Decide who could be harmed and how
 - Evaluate risks
 - Record findings
 - Review assessment and update

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- Control of substances hazardous to health (COSHH) Legal requirement to undertake risk assessment
 - 2 objectives:
 - Evaluate risk to health from hazardous substances and identify steps to reduce the risk
 - Establish what has to be done to control the risks and meet the requirements of the COSHH regulations

Personal Safety

- **Local guidance and policies**
- Pregnancy advice
- Preparation of drugs
- Administration of chemotherapy
- Disposal of equipment and waste
- Spillage
- Protective clothing

Patient safety

- Patient education
- Route of administration
 - Appropriate for the prescribed treatment
- Administration
 - Appropriate equipment

Environment

- Patient environment
 - Suitability
- Wider environment
 - Transportation of chemotherapy
 - Disposal of waste

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- Disposal
 - Temporary storage
 - Waste containers
 - Transportation of waste
 - Education of staff
 - Disposal of body waste

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- Spillage
 - Immediate action
 - Safeguard patient and personnel
 - Contain the spill
 - Documentation
 - Reporting
 - Incident reporting

Discharge

- Follow up
- Annual CT and tumour markers
- Contact for advice

References

- HSE Safe handling of cytotoxic drugs.
Information sheet MISC615
- www.aes-services.co.uk/health_and_safety/COSHH.php
- Summerhayes M & Daniels S (2007) Practical Chemotherapy: A Multidisciplinary Guide.n Radcliffe Medical Press, Oxford.