

General Precautions for the Patient Receiving Chemotherapy

Infection Prevention for the oncology patient:

- Report temperature greater than or equal to 100.5 to MD
- Report significant chills or s/s (change in vital signs, low B/P) to MD
- No special precautions are needed for neutropenic patients unless ordered by MD
- Maintain diligent hand hygiene
- Always adhere to proper technique regarding central lines and IV tubing per policy to prevent infection.
- Have patient wear mask when out of room
- No flowers if patient is neutropenic

Skin Care:

- Report skin that is red, swollen, broken, or open
- Report diarrhea stool to RN
- Peri care should be done after each void or stool
- Apply skin barrier cream after each time the patient is incontinent
- If peri area is red, raw, oozing, or open apply Calmoseptine protective barrier
- RN will order this from Skin Care Protocol

Oral Care and Mucositis

- Provide patient oncology oral care kit and follow [Oncology Oral Care Protocol as per Mouth Care/Oral Hygiene](#) policy and procedure.
- Assess oral cavity at least once a shift.
- Please provide oral care after meals and before bed
- Soft toothbrush and daily flossing
- Please provide assistance with oral rinses at least four times a day
- Mix ½ part sterile water & ½ part 0.9 saline to provide oral rinses
- Water based lip moisturizers
- Chemotherapy RN will make recommendation if ice chips to be provided or cold items avoided

Dietary Considerations:

- Cooking destroys the pathogens/bacteria
- Patient can have cooked food
- Avoid tobacco, alcohol and irritating foods (e.g., acidic, hot, rough, spicy)
- Do not give ice cream or yogurt, apple juice if patient has mucositis and or diarrhea
- Apple juice may increase the episodes of diarrhea

If a stomatitis or mucositis diet ordered: (for RNs only)

- Utilize the Onc RN Assessment flowsheet to document Mucositis
- Select "Hide All" and then check box for "Mucositis Assessment" to document the following:
- Onset, Duration, Related symptoms, Temp, Oral intake within 24 hrs.

Bleeding Precautions (low Platelet count)

- Bleeding precautions as directed by the RN
- Bleeding Precautions:
 - Avoid straight razors
 - Avoid activities that may cause bruising
 - Avoid constipation (hard stools can irritate mucous membranes in rectum)
 - Initiate Fall Precautions