Administration of Cytotoxic Drugs as a continuous IV Infusion Procedure

Purpose

To ensure the safe administration of cytotoxic drugs that are being infused intravenously

Audience/Scope

Registered nurses who have completed the cytotoxic and biotherapies credentialing programme or registered nurses who have completed the self learning package for ganciclovir or pentamidine administration

Associated Documents

CDHB Fluid and Medication Manual
Cytotoxic and Biotherapies Website
Drug checking procedure
Extravasation procedure
Waste and spill management procedure

Equipment

Dedicated trolley for chemotherapy administration.
Spill Kit
Extravasation kit
Personal protective clothing
Plastic backed sheets
Foil containers
IV infusion line
Gauze
2% Chlorhexidine; 70% alcohol swabs
Cytotoxic labels
Bag of normal saline
Normal saline flushes
Procedure

1. Wash hands.
2. Collect equipment needed for this procedure.
3. Obtain dedicated chemotherapy trolley.
4. Lay plastic backed sheet on trolley.
5. Put foil container on top of this.
6. Don personal protective equipment (PPE). Goggles are optional but should be considered if risk of splashing to the eyes.
7. Remove chemotherapy from bag.
8. Check chemotherapy for any leaks.
9. Place in foil container.
10. Prime any IV lines with normal saline and label with a cytotoxic label.
11. Check drugs as per checking procedure. Remove gloves
12. Proceed to patient and check identification
13. Wash hands.
14. Using non touch technique, swab access device.
15. Connect administration set and infuse compatible flush to IV access (free-flow if peripheral; via a pump if using a CVAD).
16. Check blood back flow from access device by either drawing back or lowering the infusion bag below the level of the heart.
17. Place a plastic back sheet under any luer lock connections.
18. Remove priming fluid from the infusion line.
19. On a flat surface (use trolley) that has a plastic backed sheet on it, Spike the bag of chemotherapy with the already primed infusion line keeping the infusion bag within the foil container.
20. Gently lift the bag up and observe for any leaks from spiking the bag.
21. Place bag on IV pole.
22. Infuse as prescribed.
23. Remove PPE.
24. Check blood return at regular intervals during infusion and at completion.
25. Monitor site throughout for redness, swelling, and/or leakage and encourage patient to report any signs of pain/discomfort.
26. If extravasation is suspected STOP IMMEDIATELY and follow guidelines for extravasation.
27. Observe for a hypersensitivity reaction.
28. Once the infusion has completed, wash hands and don PPE.
29. On a flat surface (use trolley) that has a plastic backed sheet on it, remove empty chemotherapy bag from the infusion set and replace with normal saline.
30. Flush the infusion line with at least 30 mls of normal saline.
31. Repeat procedure if infusing more than one drug.
32. Dispose of all waste as per guidelines.
33. Ensure chemotherapy prescription has been signed and time written in as applicable.
34. Document the drug administration and any adverse events in the clinical notes.