**Matric number: 16/mhs02/043**

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**Assignment Title: oncology and nursing care of patients with cancer  
Course Title: Advanced Medical/ Surgical Nursing II  
Course Code: NSC 408**

**Questions:**

1. Discuss your nursing responsibilities towards a patient schedulled to  receive  neoadjuvant  treatment for the management of cancer..
2. Discuss your  responsibilites towards a patient receiving radiotherapy on  an oncology unit where your practice.
3. What precautions should you take while caring for a patient receiving chemotherapy on your unit.

**Answers:**

1. **Nursing responsibilities towards a patient scheduled to receive treatment for the management of cancer**

**The nurse is responsible for ensuring:**

* Family, carers or others are adequately informed about the treatment and administration process. Education and information should be based on the patient’s reading level and literacy and level of understanding of information provided
* Documentation of patient education and consent processes according to local institute requirements.
* The planned treatment is verified with the patient and understood by them
* All medication is stored appropriately prior to administration.
* Independent verification of the medication order (including chemotherapy, targeted therapy and supportive medication) according to the protocol, the patient’s treatment plan, patient laboratory parameters and other individual parameters.
* The therapy and associated treatments are administered to the patient in a safe and timely manner.
* All professional and legal responsibilities with respect to administration of medications are met.

**Roles of a nurse before the administration of cancer therapy:**

* Document the diagnosis.
* Obtain medical history.
* Documentation of medical cancer treatment history.
* The signed patient (or caregiver) consent, and where appropriate documented patient assent, according to local policy.
* Allergies and history of any hypersensitivity reactions
* A treatment plan.
* Patient parameters (height, weight, BSA, age) and relevant laboratory values including full blood count, creatinine, urea and electrolytes and liver function tests etc

1. **Responsibility of a nurse towards a patient receiving radiotherapy**

* Administration
* Reassure the patient
* Medication applications and therapy
* Wound dressing
* Aspiration
* Education of the patient and family
* Collaboration with other team .
* Investigate medical history of the patient
* Assistance during the application of intravenous contrast
* Assistance during the application of urinary catheter and the application of contrast into the bladder
* Administration of prescribed medication at the right dose, route and time.
* Supervision on the possible side effects of the drug
* Psychological support to the patient and family

1. **Precaution to take when caring for a patient receiving chemotherapy**

Protective Clothing Recommendations

Gowns:

* Gowns are worn whenever  chemotherapy agents are being manipulated and administered.
* They are disposable, impermeable/low permeability fabric, lint-free, with back closure and long cuffed sleeves, which should be tucked into the gloves.
* They are changed in the event of an obvious spill (time to permeability of a vesicant is one hour).
* They are used once or according to the manufacturer’s recommendations.

Gloves:

* Use gloves that have been tested to protect against permeations by chemotherapy agents and are strongly recommended
* Hand washing should occur before donning gloves and after removing gloves.
* Gloves should be changed after each administration, OR if contamination or puncture occurs.

Masks:

* Must be worn throughout the process of chemotherapy drug manipulation and administration.
* Surgical masks are not acceptable.
* The literature is unclear as to how long each mask offers protection. Masks should be changed with obvious contamination as well as when it no longer seals to face.

Eye and Face Protection:

* Plastic Face Shields must be worn wherever chemotherapy agents are being manipulated and administered.
* It is recommended that contact lenses should not be worn because of risk of absorption.
* Safety glasses or regular eye glasses are not adequate.
* Eye protectors should be cleaned after each use

Precaution In Drug Preparation Area for Nursing Personnel

* A dedicated area with restricted access and that is free of food and drink is required. Chewing of gum in this area should not be allowed.
* This designated area should not be heavily trafficked.
* Signs that restrict access to authorized personnel only should be displayed.
* Appropriate warning labels must be placed on all chemotherapy drug storage areas
* A sink, an eyewash station and a spill kit should be available in this space.
* A plastic-backed absorbent pad should be used under tubing, syringe or sites of potential leak.
* Leak-proof and puncture-proof biohazard containers should be present. All needles, syringes and other disposable items should be disposed of in these.

**Precaution In Administration and Disposal of Chemotherapy Agents**There should be no open food in patient room when the IV system is opened for the purpose of administering chemotherapy agents, as there is a potential for the food to be contaminated. In cases where food is used to help with taste aversions or as a comfort measure, exceptions can be made by the administering RN to give the chemotherapy agents with caution.

Disposal of Equipment /Personal Protective Equipment used to Administer Chemotherapy Agents:

* All syringes and needles should be discarded in containers that are puncture-resistant, leak-proof, that have a lid that seals securely, and that are appropriately labelled.
* Bags and solution administration sets should be discarded intact in appropriately labelled reseal able containers that are both leak-proof and puncture-proof.
* PPE used during handling and administration should be disposed of in appropriately labelled container.