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

1 Neoadjuvant are treatment given as a first step to shrink a tumor before the main treatment, which is usually surgery, is given. Examples of neoadjuvant therapy include chemotherapy, radiation therapy, and hormone therapy.

The nursing responsibilities are ;

- A. The nurse should inform the patient about the information. 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
- B. Patient education and consent processes have been completed and documented according to local institute requirements.
- C. The planned treatment is verified with the patient and understood by them
- D. All medication is stored appropriately prior to administration.

- E. 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.
- F. The therapy and associated treatments are administered to the patient in a safe and timely manner.
- G. All professional and legal responsibilities with respect to administration of medications are met.
- H. The nurse should provide education and emotional support by assessing the needs of the patient and their significant others and by discussing their fears and coping mechanisms
- I. The nurse must communicate frequently with the physician and other members of the healthcare team to ensure that the information provided to the patients and their families are consistent with those of the other healthcare teams members.

Prior to commencing the administration of cancer therapy:

- Current diagnosis.
- Medical history.
- Medication and 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

2. Responsibilities towards a patient receiving radiotherapy on an oncology unit are:

- Maintain tissue integrity
- Medicament applications and therapy
- Promote adequate nutrition
- Relieve pain
- Wound dressing
- Aspiration
- Improve body image and self-esteem

- Support physically and psychologically
- Education of the patient and family
- Collaboration with other team members
- Continuous training
- Reduce fatigue
- 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
- Taking the drug in the right way and at the right time
- Supervision on the possible side effects of the drug
- Psychological support to the patient and family

3. Precautions should you take while caring for a patient receiving chemotherapy includes;

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

Protective Clothing Recommendations

Gowns:

- Worn wherever chemotherapy agents are being manipulated and administered.
- Disposable, impermeable/low permeability fabric, lint-free, with back closure and long cuffed sleeves, which should be tucked into the gloves.
- Changed in the event of an obvious spill (time to permeability of a vesicant is one hour).
- Single use 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.

