MATRIC NO: 16/MHS02/027

COURSE TITLE: ADVANCED MEDICAL SURGICAL NURSING

COURSE CODE: NSC 408

1. Nursing Responsibilities towards a Patient Scheduled to Receive Neoadjuvent Treatment for the Management of Cancer

Neoadjuvent therapy is referred to as medications administered before surgery for the treatment of breast cancer

Oncology nurses deliver the intervention in several steps throughout a patient’s treatment:

* In person coaching at the start of treatment
* Telephone based coaching during a patients first few days at home
* Providing a patient information brochure for ongoing reference
* Providing access to an online or on-call nursing services for as-needed help

As treatment begins, nurses meet with patients to provide oral and written information about patients’ treatment and potential side effects. They use a direct approach to achieve the goal of improving patients knowledge, which would in turn improve their ability to self manage their symptoms. Nurses also provide a symptom diary to keep track of side effects at home

2. Nursing Responsibility Towards a Patient Receiving Radiotherapy

The treating team considers a range of factors when deciding on a course of radiotherapy. Tumour related factors include:

•The site of the cancer

•An histological-proven cell type

• The grade and stage of the tumour

• The radio sensitivity of the tumour.

Individual factors that can influence the decision to use radiotherapy include co morbidities, performance status, and lack of suitability for surgical resection or anaesthesia.

A significant proportion (approximately 50%) of the population undergoing radiotherapy are treated palliative to manage local recurrence and alleviation of unrespectable tumours 3 Palliative indications include:

• treating pain from bony metastases and pathological fractures

• providing relief from symptoms caused by cerebral metastases

• relieving spinal cord compression

• Superior vena cava obstruction

• Control of bleeding

• reducing fungating lesions.

3. Nursing Responsibilities for patients undergoing Chemotherapy

Assess and manage

Toxic effect of drugs and side effects of drugs should be managed e.g nausea, vomiting, ulceration of mucous membranes, hair loss, and anorexia

Monitor lab results: drugs should be withheld if blood counts are seriously low.

Assess for dehydration, oncologic emergencies

Teach regarding fatigue, immunosuppression precautions

Provide emotional and spiritual support to clients and families.