

RGH Pharmacy E-Bulletin

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A joint initiative of the Patient Services Section and the Drug and Therapeutics Information Service of the Pharmacy Department, Repatriation General Hospital, Daw Park, South Australia. The RGH Pharmacy E-Bulletin is distributed in electronic format on a weekly basis, and aims to present concise, factual information on issues of current interest in therapeutics, drug safety and cost-effective use of medications.

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Cancer care resources

A number of resources and guidelines are available, relating to chemotherapy, management of symptoms of cancer and management of side effects related to treatment of cancer.

The Multinational Association of Supportive Care in cancer (MASCC) www.mascc.org produces a number of guidelines and tools for use in chemotherapy and radiotherapy patients.

- Antiemetic guidelines in conjunction with the European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO): [Guideline update for MASCC and ESMO in the prevention of chemotherapy and radiotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting: results of the Perugia consensus conference](#). F. Roila, J. Herrstedt, M. Aapro, R.J. Gralla, et al. , Annals of Oncology 21 (Supplement 5): v232 - v243, 2010)
- Mucositis: Perspectives and Clinical Practice Guidelines (reviewed 2011)
- MASCC Antiemesis Tool (MAT) to assist patients and oncology professionals in communicating accurately about the prevention and control of nausea and vomiting that may occur with chemotherapy.
- MASCC Teaching Tool for Patients Receiving Oral Agents for Cancer (MOATT) assesses patients' understanding of their cancer and treatment regimen and ability to safely take an oral agent, then teaches them instructions specific to their anticancer agent.
- MASCC EGFR Inhibitor Skin Toxicity Tool (MESTT) to assist health professionals in the assessment and reporting of dermatologic adverse events in EGFR inhibitor-treated patients.

EviQ Cancer Treatments Online www.eviq.org.au, the website maintained by the Cancer Institute NSW, contains chemotherapy protocols for the treatment of haematological and solid malignancies. A login and password is required at no cost. Where applicable, protocols include information on:

- Treatment schedule – dose and frequency
- Precautions/exclusions
- Key prescribing points
- Side effects
- Dose modifications due to haematological toxicity, renal and hepatic impairment, and other side effects
- Drug interactions
- Patient information leaflet
- Hypercalcaemia
- Extravasation
- Tumour lysis syndrome
- Oral mucositis
- Febrile neutropenia
- Antibiotic, antiviral, antifungal prophylaxis
- Antiemetic regimens based on the emetogenicity of the chemotherapy regimen

The Opioid Equivalence Calculator is a useful addition to the EviQ website although it does not include a conversion table. Assessment tools include malnutrition and peripheral neuropathy screening tools and a Drug Administration Timeout Checklist. The Clinical Oncological Society of Australia (COSA) has a Cancer Pharmacists' Group (CPG) which recently produced guidelines for the administration of cytotoxics: Carrington C, Stone L, Koczwara B et al. The Clinical Oncological Society of Australia (COSA) guidelines for the safe prescribing, dispensing and administration of cancer chemotherapy. Asia-Pacific J Clin Oncol 2010; 6: 220–37. The International Society of Oncology Pharmacy Practitioners (ISOPP) publishes the Journal of Oncology Pharmacy Practice in which Standards of Practice were published in 2007. The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) has produced a number of practice standards, addressing provision of Clinical Oncology Pharmacy Services (2002) and specific issues such as safe handling of cytotoxics Drugs in Pharmacy Departments (2004) and transportation of cytotoxic drugs

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION – CONTACT THE PHARMACY DEPARTMENT ON 82751763 or email: chris.alderman@rgh.sa.gov.au
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