

## NURSING SERVICE GUIDELINES GENERAL

**Guideline:** Qualifications for Oncology Nurses Providing Direct Patient Care and to Administer Antineoplastic Chemotherapy



**Policy Number Superseded:** 3364-110-05-08

**Effective Date:** 5/2026

**Responsibility:** Chief Nursing Officer

**Initial Effective Date:** 5/2026

**Purpose of Guidelines:** To provide guidelines to ensure Qualified personal administer antineoplastic chemotherapeutic medications and biotherapy agents, including those agents with a known potential for hypersensitivity.

**Guideline Statement:** Registered Nurses (RNs) and Advanced Practice Nurses providing direct oncology care within the accredited cancer program must meet one of the following:

- Maintain current cancer-specific certification in their specialty from an accredited certification program and/or maintain the ONS Chemo provider card.
- The practitioner must also complete a minimum of 18 cancer-related Nursing Continuing Professional Development (NCPD) contact hours during each accreditation cycle, in accordance with the Commission on Cancer Standard 4.2.

This Guideline applies to nurses in medical oncology who administer chemotherapy, nurses in radiation oncology, nurse navigators, and nurses in the cancer center or cancer clinic at the University of Toledo Medical Center.

**(A) Purpose of Guideline**

To assure that RN's administering antineoplastic chemotherapeutic medications and biotherapy agents are competent and safe in their actions.

**(B) Procedure**

1. In order to meet the qualifications to administer I.V. antineoplastic chemotherapy the nurse must:
  - Hold current Ohio licensure as a RN.
  - Successfully complete the hospital orientation program.
  - Hold current BLS (Basic Life Support) certification.
  - Successfully complete an Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) Chemotherapy and Biotherapy Course.

- Demonstrate competency in chemotherapy administration on an annual basis, through participation in continuing education offerings and periodic peer review. It is also required that each nurse maintain the ONS chemotherapy provider card current (renewable every 2 years). In addition, RN's who administer chemotherapy must obtain 6 oncology focused continuing education units (CEU) per year or a total of 18 hours over a three-year accreditation cycle to meet Commission of Cancer requirements.
- In alignment with Standard 4.2 of the Commission on Cancer, any nurse providing direct oncology care including but not limited to those in radiation oncology, navigation, and cancer clinics must either:
- Maintain active oncology nursing certification (e.g., OCN®, CBCN®, AOCNP®, AOCN®, BMTCN®, etc.);

**AND/OR**

- Complete the ONS chemotherapy provider card and complete 18 cancer-related NCPD contact hours every three years.

**Qualifications for Nurses in Radiation Oncology, Cancer Navigation, and Cancer Center/Clinic:**

1. RNs or APRNs who do not administer chemotherapy but provide direct oncology care in these roles must meet the same qualifications described in Section 1E, including cancer-specific certification or completion of 18 cancer-related continuing education hours per accreditation cycle.
2. RN's who have completed a course on Chemotherapy Administration at other institutions may meet hospital requirements provided they present evidence that the program they attended met was an ONS Chemotherapy and Biotherapy Course and course met the objectives of this hospital's program.

**AND/OR**

- Complete the ONS chemotherapy provider card and complete 18 cancer-related NCPD contact hours every three years.

**References:**

Neuss, M. N., Gilmore, T. R., Belderson, K. M., Billett, K. L., Conti-Kalchik, T., Harvey, B. E., ...& Polovich, M. (2017). 2016 updated American Society of Clinical Oncology/Oncology Nursing Society chemotherapy administration safety standards, including standards for pediatric oncology. *Oncology Nursing Forum*, 44(1), 31-43. <http://doi.org/10.1188/17>, ONF.31-43.

Oncology Nursing Society Position: Education of the RN who administers and cares for the individual receiving chemotherapy, targeted therapy, and immunotherapy. (Rev. 10/17). Pittsburgh, PA: Oncology Nursing Society.

Olsen, M. M., LeFebvre, K. B., & Brassil, K. J. (Eds) (2019). *Chemotherapy and Immunotherapy Guidelines and Recommendations for Practice*. Pittsburgh, PA: Oncology Nursing Society.

Approved by:

*Kurt Kless, MSN, MBA, RN, NE-BC  
Chief Nursing Officer*

Initial effective date: 5/2026

Review/Revision Date: N/A

Review/Revision Completed by:

*Sasha L Clark MBA, BSN, RN, NE-BC  
Nursing Director*

Next review date: 5/2029