

## IREDELL HEALTH SYSTEM

<b>Safe Ordering Practices for Chemotherapy Agents</b>	
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P&T Committee	Date: 02/2023

**Policy:**

To ensure safe practices occur with ordering of intravenously, subcutaneously and intramuscularly administered chemotherapy agents for inpatient and outpatient services.

**Procedure:**

Pharmacy shall receive all chemotherapy orders (inpatient and outpatient) 72 hours prior to scheduled administration to ensure an appropriate procurement of medication(s) is provided and adequate staffing is made available. Ordering shall be completed on the approved Iredell Memorial Hospital "CHEMOTHERAPY ORDER SHEET." No verbal orders shall be accepted for chemotherapy agents. If an order needs clarification, it shall be provided in writing by the provider.

Ordering and administration should be scheduled when staffing is adequate, to safeguard appropriate safety checks are performed before and during compounding, verification and administration. It is essential that patient care is not compromised under any circumstances.

The following standards are required on a chemotherapy medication order:

1. All orders should be clearly written, signed, dated and timed by the provider.
2. The generic drug name should be used.
3. The dosage form should be specified.
4. Orders should include the patient-specific data from which drug doses are calculated, including: height, weight, BSA and any specific laboratory results.
5. Medication orders should specify the drug dosage and calculated dose according to the "container rule" (i.e. the specified and calculated dose is the amount prepared and administered from a single container).
6. Administration vehicle solutions and volumes should be specified.
7. The administration route should be specified.
8. The administration rate should be specified, when relevant.
9. The administration schedule and the duration of treatment should be specified.

All chemotherapy orders shall be independently verified by two pharmacists prior to preparation.

In the event that a chemotherapy dose is within or equal to 5% of the nearest vial size, pharmacy shall contact the provider with request for dose rounding.

INITIAL EFFECTIVE DATE: 02/2020  
DATES REVISIONS EFFECTIVE: 02/2023  
DATES REVIEWED (no changes):