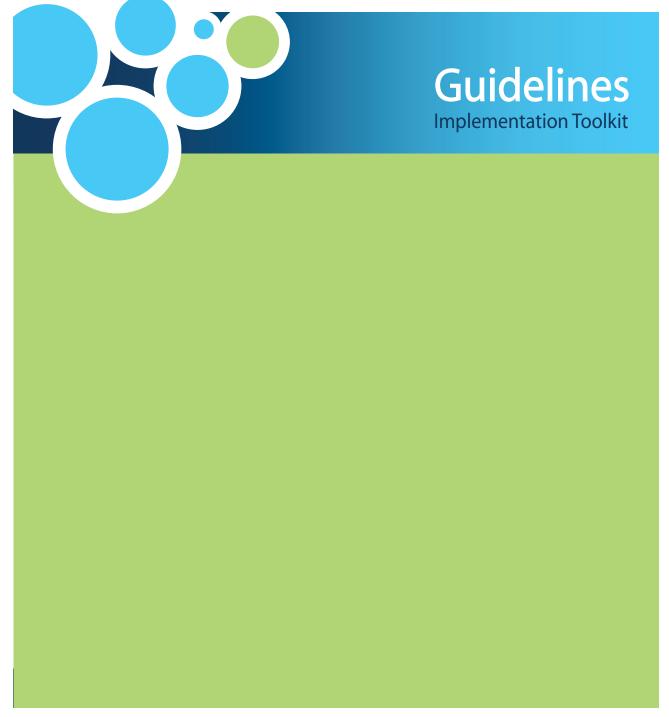
Extravasation guidelines 2007





Contents

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Introduction to the Extravasation guidelines					
Introduction	4				
Overall Goal	4				
Specific Targets and Aims The Nurse's Role					
What is extravasation?	6				
Types of extravasation	6				
When does extravasation occur?	8				
Prevalence	8				
Risk factors	8				
What are the implications of extravasation?	10				
Initial symptoms	10				
Tissue damage	10				
Surgery	11				
Impact on cancer therapy	11				
Other consequences					
How is extravasation recognised?	12				
Patient reporting	12				
Visual assessment	13				
Checking the infusion line	13				
Distinguishing extravasation vs. other conditions	14				
How is extravasation prevented?	15				
Standard procedures	15				
Training	15				
Patient education	16				
Equipment selection	16				
Vein selection in peripheral administration	17				
Administering intravenous treatment	17				



How is extravasation managed?				
Procedures and protocols	19			
Management – initial steps	20			
Management – next steps	21			
Antidotes	24			
Anthracycline extravasation	26			
Extravasation kit	26			
Surgery and debridement				
Documentation and reporting	27			
Summary	29			
Appendices	30			
List of drugs: vesicants, irritants and non-vesicants	30			
Distinguishing extravasation from other conditions				
Vein selection procedure	32			
Administering Savene™ (dexrazoxane)	33			
Administering dimethylsulfoxide	34			
Administering hyaluronidase	35			
Extravasation kit	36			
Documentation template	37			
References	41			

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Yvonne Wengström	OCN, PhD, Past President of the European Oncology Nursing Society (EONS)
Jan Foubert	RPN, PhD, Senior Lecturer in Nursing and Midwifery, Erasmushogeschool, Department of Healthcare, Brussels, Belgium
Anita Margulies	BSN, RN, Clinical Nurse and Lecturer, Board Member of EONS, Klinik und Poliklinik für Onkologie, Universitätsspital, Zürich, Switzerland
Helen Roe	RN, BSc(Hons), Consultant Cancer Nurse / Lead Chemotherapy Nurse, North Cumbria Acute Hospitals NHS Trust; Chair of the United Kingdom Oncology Nursing Society (UKONS) North Zone Chemotherapy Group, United Kingdom
Sebastien Bugeia	Oncology Nurse at the "Institut Gustave Roussy" (Villejuif, FRANCE), Board



 $\label{thm:member of the French Oncology Nursing Society (AFIC).} \\$

Introduction

With over 100,000 doses of chemotherapy and in excess of 1,000,000 intravenous (IV) infusions given every day around the world, keeping adverse events and complications of these procedures to a minimum is important both for the patients receiving them and the healthcare systems in which they take place.

Extravasation is a serious condition that warrants special attention from the healthcare professionals involved in administering intravenous medications. This educational module summarises and explains the most recent literature and recommendations on extravasation in the clinical setting – from prevention and recognition to possible treatment with antidotes. It also provides an outline of the pivotal role that nurses play in the patient management process.

The scope of this document is to describe and explain the prevention, recognition and management of extravasation in general terms. More detailed descriptions of techniques for proper cannulation or phlebotomy (an important skill for the prevention of extravasation) will not be dealt with in this guideline.

Overall Goal

Specific Targets and Aims

The Nurse's Role

Overall Goal

The overall goal of these guidelines is to help nurses understand and recognise extravasation, and improve the prevention and overall management of extravasations in cancer patients.

Specific Targets and Aims

The targets and aims of this module are to:

Increase nurses'	knowledge o	of specific	elements	of extravasation:

 $\hfill \square$ Causes and risk factors for extravasation

 $\hfill\Box$ Features and symptoms of extravasation

 $\hfill \Box$ Differences vs. flare and other reactions

☐ Consequences of extravasation

Prevention measures

 $\hfill\Box$ The use of antidotes in treating extravasation

Encourage successful management of extravasation

Update and inform nurses of the current standards from different guidelines and protocols

Encourage adoption of procedures for extravasation that fit with the current guidelines



The Nurse's Role

Nurses are among the best placed professionals to recognise and deal with extravasation in the clinical setting. The nurses who routinely provide cancer therapies intravenously (either peripherally or through central venous access devices (CVADs) are particularly important in the ongoing management of this possibly serious complication of therapy.

Nurses have a key role to play in identification and management of extravasation, and, of course, in preventing it. From maintaining a high standard of care in the delivery of IV drugs to managing the treatment strategy for extravasation, they have many important duties in this area.

Nurses represent an important link for ensuring that extravasation is prevented, diagnosed and managed where possible. Their role in providing information and providing ongoing support for patients relating to cancer therapy (and the need to be vigilant for any symptoms) is critical in cutting the incidence of extravasation.

This module will discuss the role of the nurse in extravasation management and highlight information and issues that will assist nurses to perform these roles more efficiently.



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