



ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

Nursing

NEED FOR NURSING CARE STANDARDS FOR CANCER CHEMOTHERAPY CARE

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ABSTRACT

Chemotherapy is the main treatment modality for treating cancer patients. Nurses play a very important role in the administration of chemotherapy. It is very important to take utmost care in the administration of chemotherapy to patients with cancer. So for providing quality nursing care to patients undergoing chemotherapy certain benchmarks are to be followed. Nursing care standards for cancer chemotherapy care forms the benchmark for providing quality nursing care. Nursing care standards are also needed for ensuring patient safety and for enhancing patient satisfaction.

Chemotherapy is currently the main treatment entity for cancer. Chemotherapy in fact includes a wide variety of treatment options for cancer including cytotoxic drugs, immunotherapies, targeted drug therapies, biologics and hormonal treatments. Cancer chemotherapy drugs are different from other classes of drugs and cancer patients often have special needs to be taken care of as well. Administration of chemotherapy is a complex activity and has many safety issues associated with this. Patients as well as nurses are at high risk if chemotherapy is not administered following safety precautions. This highlights the need for nursing care standards in cancer chemotherapy nursing care. Nurses should work within the guidelines based on current evidences. This will form the basis for establishing nursing care standards for cancer chemotherapy related nursing care and will ensure maximum patient outcomes (Neuss M N et al.,2016)

Nursing Care Standards In Cancer Chemotherapy Care
Nursing care standards describe how a nurse should or should not act in a given situation. Nursing care standards implies the competencies a nurse should have to practice nursing care. So nursing care standards in chemotherapy nursing care in fact involves the competencies a nurse should have in providing chemotherapy care. Nursing care standards are descriptive statements of nursing practice depicting quality nursing care.

Nursing care standards have been developed to provide nursing care for clients undergoing chemotherapy. These are listed with mainly four standards under which several competencies are mentioned, achieving which will ensure quality care by nurses. These competencies can in turn form the basis for developing tools for assessing cancer chemotherapy nursing care. Several criterias are to be followed for achieving these competencies. These are listed down in the standards under each competency and will form the basis for providing scientific care to the patients. Nursing care standards to be followed in chemotherapy care are listed below.

A. Accountability for Cancer Chemotherapy Nursing Practice and Care by Registered Nurses.

Competency 1: Completes a comprehensive assessment of patients receiving chemotherapy

Competency 2: Establishes supportive and therapeutic relationship with patients and family

Competency 3: Demonstrates safe nursing practices before, during and after administration of chemotherapy

Competency 4: Promotes and facilitates management of cancer side effects

Competency 5: Adheres to adult learning principles in providing education for patients receiving chemotherapy

Competency 6: Promotes continuity of care and help patients and their families navigate the health care system.

Competency 7: Contributes to developing decision making and advocacy for patient's wellbeing

Competency 8: Develop skills in professional practice and leadership

B. Quality Practice Environment for Optimal Cancer Chemotherapy Nursing Practice.

Competency 9: Advocate and promote safe methods of chemotherapy administration

Competency 10: Advocate and promote appropriate policies, procedures and processes related to cancer chemotherapy care within the organization

Competency 11: Safe handling of hazardous drugs

C. Educational Requirements for Developing Competence in Cancer Chemotherapy.

D. Cancer Chemotherapy Continuing Competence Programme.

The first standard is Accountability for Cancer Chemotherapy Nursing Practice and Care by Registered Nurses, and this describes the overall expectation for cancer chemotherapy nursing practice. The eight chemotherapy nursing care competencies to be developed by nurses are specified under this standard. Standard B, Quality Practice Environment for Optimal Cancer Chemotherapy Nursing Practice, explains the policies and procedures, organizational systems, and continuity of care required for providing best cancer chemotherapy nursing practice. Standard C, Educational Requirements for Developing Competence in Cancer Chemotherapy, depicts the educational programme requirements for nurses to develop competence. Cancer Chemotherapy Continuing Competence Programme is the final standard and this explains about the requirements for periodic continuing competency programme for Registered Nurses, for enhancing their knowledge and skill for cancer chemotherapy nursing care (CANO Chemotherapy Standards and Competencies.,2018)

Need For Nursing Care Standards For Chemotherapy

- As a profession , Nursing should ensure provision of quality nursing care to the public. Nursing care standards are the best means for ensuring the same
- Nursing care standards for cancer chemotherapy are needed to ensure safety of Nurses

- Nursing care standards for cancer chemotherapy are needed to provide a common language within nursing which will ensure a uniform basis for providing care
- Nursing care standards for cancer chemotherapy will ensure legal safety of Nurses. It provides a framework for the nurse to follow while providing nursing care.
- Nursing care standards are needed for providing a self regulation for the profession and this will in turn increase the credibility of nursing profession
- Nursing care standards for cancer chemotherapy are established on the basis of research findings and hence they are required for avoiding old style of practices and for introducing a new scientific basis for nursing practice
- Following nursing care standards for cancer chemotherapy will reduce the occurrence of errors and provides a framework for nurses to follow , ensuring patient as well as their safety
- Nursing care standards in chemotherapy are needed for establishing professional accountability and can be utilized in performance appraisal as well
- Nursing care standards in cancer chemotherapy are needed for proper supervision of care provided
- Nursing care standards in cancer chemotherapy are needed to ensure proper client satisfaction as well and this is in turn the best indicator of quality nursing care

CONCLUSION

Following nursing care standards for cancer chemotherapy is an inevitable part of ensuring quality in nursing care. This in turn will strengthen the nursing discipline and ensures patient and nurse safety at every point of provision of nursing care. This is extremely important because patients receiving chemotherapy are often complex in nature and have unpredictable outcomes.

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