



## RECOMMENDATION FOR ERROR PREVENTION IN ANTICANCER DRUG THERAPY

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### INTRODUCTION

Due to the high toxicity of anticancer drugs and their low therapeutic index, the errors in cancer therapy can determine serious damages, even at approved doses. The Ministry of Health, under the Program for Patient Safety, has developed a specific Recommendation for the proper management of treatment with anticancer drugs.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

A working group consisting of pharmacists, oncologists, nurses, psychologists and patient representatives was set up. The same format of other Recommendations made by MoH for patient safety was followed.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Recommendation is directed to Regions and Autonomous Provinces, health facilities, clinical risk managers, health workers; it finds application inside the medical oncology and haematology units of private and public hospitals, inside hospital pharmacies and at patient home. The Recommendation is to protect patients needing anticancer drugs treatments.

#### Highlights.

Hospitals should provide working instruments and develop a procedure including all the instructions for proper anticancer drugs management.

Also they should define the training plan, undertake initiatives to promote communication and integration between health workers, adopt a procedure collecting the informed consent in cancer chemotherapy documentation, implement interventions for the overall care, information needs and psychological and social supports for the patient.

### CONCLUSIONS

The Recommendation is a reference for health professionals involved in anticancer drugs handling, providing information about the patient's health objectives and expected benefits from treatment. A correct and complete information is the key tool of the therapeutic alliance in order to ensure the quality and safety of care. The document provides guidance aimed at preventing errors that can occur during anticancer drugs treatment and includes recommendations encouraging clinical governance promotion. Soon a verification of the Recommendation implementation will be expected.

<http://www.salute.gov.it/qualita/qualita.jsp>

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