

HOW TO ORDER CHEMOTHERAPY AT SHANDS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA – INPATIENT

1. Medications, both oral and intravenous, listed in Table 1 must be ordered on a chemotherapy order form for oncology and non-oncology indications.
2. Use the preprinted 2–page chemotherapy forms
Chemotherapy on front sheet: must include drug, dose per protocol (i.e., mg/kg or mg/m²); route of administration; dose the patient is to receive; diluent (type and volume) pharmacy to manufacture agent in; duration of infusion
Ancillary medications: pre- and post-chemotherapy agents must be listed on the second page. This includes items such as: test doses (if required); antiemetics; hydration; allopurinol; etc.

Ancillary tests that might be required e.g., fibrinogen for patients receiving asparaginase, etc.
3. Always make sure that you verify your orders against a source document (e.g. journal reference, handbook, etc). DO NOT copy previous chemotherapy orders without verification, as they may be wrong! Where possible if using the hematology–oncology handbook please cite the appropriate page for the regimen on the chemotherapy orders.
4. Pharmacy will call you if a reference is not provided and the regimen you have prescribed is not in the hematology–oncology handbook – this is part of the hospital policy effective June 2006. So please make sure you provide documentation against which the order can be verified. This will ensure that you have “backup”.
5. Remember to avoid banned abbreviations.
6. The prescriber is required to document the cumulative lifetime dose of bleomycin, daunorubicin, doxorubicin, epirubicin, and Idarubicin on the chemotherapy order form.
7. There is an official chemotherapy cut–off time of 5 pm daily. This ensures that appropriately trained pharmacy and nursing staff are available to properly evaluate prescribing, coordinate dispensing, and safely administer chemotherapy. Processing of emergency chemotherapy will be facilitated after the 5pm daily order cut–off time as follows: if the authorized prescriber feels that initiation of chemotherapy is emergent, an oncology clinical pharmacist will contact the prescriber and discuss merits of the request. A collaborative decision to initiate chemotherapy will be made in the best interest of the patient.
8. For all oncology indications, a privileged oncology attending physician is required to sign or co–sign all orders written on a chemotherapy order form. For all non–oncology indications, an attending physician is required to sign or co–sign all orders written on a chemotherapy order form.
9. Ask questions if you don’t know. There are 4 FTE pharmacist lines for the oncology area: Helen Leather pager 413 4050 (office 4–5839); Laura Wiggins pager 413 4056 (office 4–5892); Tippu Khan pager 413 4048 (office 4–4683); and one open position.

Table 1.

Drugs that must be ordered on a chemotherapy order form.

Aldesleukin	Docetaxel	Mitoxantrone
Alemtuzumab	Doxorubicin	Nab-paclitaxel
Arsenic Trioxide	Epirubicin	Nelarabine
Asparaginase	Erlotinib	Oxaliplatin
Azacitidine	Estramustine Phosphate	Paclitaxel
Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG)	Etoposide	Pegaspargase
Bevacizumab	Floxuridine	Pemetrexed
Bexarotene	Fludarabine	Pentostatin
Bleomycin	Fluorouracil	Podofilox
Bortezomib	Gemcitabine	Podophyllum resin
Busulfan	Gemtuzumab ozogamicin	Procarbazine
Capecitabine	Hydroxyurea	Rituximab
Carboplatin	Ibritumomab tiuxetan	Sorafenib
Carmustine	Idarubicin	Streptozocin
Cetuximab	Ifosfamide	Sunitinib
Chlorambucil	Imatinib mesylate	Teniposide
Cisplatin	Irinotecan	Thalidomide
Cladribine	Leflunomide	Thioguanine
Clofarabine	Lenalidomide	Thiotepa
Cyclophosphamide	Lomustine	Topotecan
Cytarabine	Mechlorethamine	Tositumomab
Dacarbazine	Melphalan	Trastuzumab
Dactinomycin	Methotrexate	Valrubicin
Dasatinib	Mitomycin	Vinblastine
Daunorubicin	Mitotane	Vincristine
Decitabine		Vinorelbine
Denileukin		