

# 港島西醫院聯網 Hong Kong West Cluster



## A web-based drug information enhancement service on parenteral chemotherapy regimens

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### Introduction

Lack of easy access to chemotherapy protocol across the hospital, and areas of ambiguity on some of the chemotherapy protocols used, e.g. in terms of drug names and nursing instructions, have been associated with increased time in ordering chemotherapy, increased workload of nursing staffs and potential risks for medication incidents.

### Aims and Objectives

The value of preprinted chemotherapy protocol forms in reducing medication incidents has repeatedly been reaffirmed. It is expected that a collection of standardized chemotherapy protocols, available anytime on the intranet, would help medical and nursing staffs to:

- 1) order chemotherapy with standardized treatment forms;
- 2) make reference to the most updated chemotherapy protocols;
- 3) allow other medical staff to be aware of the usually available chemotherapies in the hospital.

### Methodology

The Division of Haematology and Oncology, Department of Medicine and the Department of Pharmacy met and built consensus on the revision of chemotherapy protocols in terms of standardization in layout format, the use of abbreviations and synonyms, addition of administration instructions, design of intrathecal chemotherapy protocols, removal of ambiguous and obsolete statements, and addition of references. The revised protocol forms in Portable Document Format (PDF) format will then be uploaded to the Clinical Webstation, HKWC for download. (<http://hkwc.home/clinicalwebstation.asp>)

#### Examples of amendments made:

- Chemotherapy protocols in tabulated format
- Administration instructions added

- Abbreviations/synonyms supplemented with generic names
- Ambiguous and obsolete statements rephrased
- References added

- Intrathecal chemotherapy to dedicated order forms

- Protocols in PDF uploaded to the HKWC Clinical Webstation for download:

### Results

Chemotherapy protocols were reviewed, reformatted and revised with changes to enhance medication safety issues. As of February 2010, a total of 40 protocols were revised and their PDF versions uploaded to the HKWC Clinical Webstation available for clinicians and nurses for download.

### Outcome

The service was welcomed by the Division of Haematology and Oncology, and continual updates will be made when necessary. It is hoped that such service could be extended to other specialties, e.g. surgery, gynecology and clinical oncology. We anticipate that our service will provide clinicians and nurses with readily accessible web-based collection of protocols for prescribing and reference, and improvement in medication safety associated with chemotherapy prescriptions.