RATIONALE:

Dose banding is defined as a system whereby doses of intravenous drugs calculated on an individualized basis that are within defined ranges, or bands, are rounded up or down to predetermined standard doses. A range of pre-filled syringes, infusions or infusors, manufactured by pharmacy staff or purchased from commercial sources, can be used to administer the standard dose. Dose banding is a pragmatic approach to dose selection. Fixed dosing is used for oral chemotherapy e.g. Capecitabine.

DIRECTIVE:

Prescribers, pharmacists and nurses will follow established processes for the management of dose banded chemotherapy treatments for ensuring safe and effective patient care.

Dose banded infusors will be provided for protocols utilizing 46 hour Fluorouracil infusions.

PROCEDURES:

Prescriber

1. Prescriber will complete the relevant Provincial Pre Printed Order indicating the actual calculated dose of Fluorouracil; including full dose or a dose modification based calculation.

2. If an order has been written for 2 or 3 cycles and a dose modification is necessary for the second or third treatment a new written order will be required.

Pharmacy

1. Pharmacist will perform clinical check for appropriateness of prescribed therapy.

2. Following directions on the PPO, determine if a dose band is applicable. Pharmacist will select correct dose band and document the selection by circling the correct dose band and initialing in the space provided on the original PPO or follow standard procedures for preparation of a non-dose banded product.

3. Pharmacy staff will enter the prescription order into the Pharmacy computer system and generate labels using the appropriate order set for the dose band selected by the pharmacist.

4. Pharmacy Assistant/Technician will select the correct dose banded product from the high alert bins and label according to standard procedures or proceed to preparation and labeling as per standard procedures.

5. Pharmacist/Pharmacy Technician will perform the final check of the product, ensuring that the selected dose band and the product dispensed, including the rate of infusor, are consistent with the patient’s ordered treatment.
Nurse

1. Nurse will perform clinical check for appropriateness of prescribed therapy.

2. Nurse will ensure that the ordered dose, the selected dose band and the product dispensed, including rate of infusor, are consistent with the patient’s ordered treatment

REFERENCES:
