

## Pediatric Hem/Onc Rotation Pharmacy Reference Sheet

Welcome to the Peds Hem/Onc Rotation. As the Clinical Pharmacists on the team; we'll be working closely with you throughout the rotation. Unless you're contemplating Hem/Onc as a career ordering chemo is not likely a big priority for you. What you should focus on is learning to recognize and manage toxicities/side effects of chemo; as this will make your nights/weekends on call a bit easier when you have to look after Hem/Onc patients on the ward. Nevertheless, you'll still be called upon to see patients and order chemo in the outpatient clinic. To make things a bit easier, we've prepared this sheet to help you with some practical aspects of ordering chemo/other drugs during your rotation.

Clinical Pharmacists:        John Wiernikowski, Pager 1096  
  Joan Lee, Pager 1413  
  Paula MacDonald, Pager 4582

At least one of us is ALWAYS here (during the week) so call us if you need help!!

Chemo Ordering:        BSA Formula:  $BSA = \sqrt{\text{Height (in cms)} \times \text{Weight (in Kgs)} \div 3600}$

Please round BSA's to 2 significant digits. i.e 0.67812 = 0.68 m<sup>2</sup>

For ease and accuracy of measuring/dosing chemo and other drugs, certain drugs are ordered in specific ways.

**Asparaginase:**        Please round doses up or down to the nearest 1000 Units. This will apply 99% of the time, but for babies we will sometimes round to the nearest 100 Units.

**PEG-Asparaginase**    Please round doses to the nearest multiple of 75 Units (we'll help you with this one!)

**Bleomycin:**        Round doses to the nearest 1 Unit

**Dexamethasone:**    Round doses to the nearest 0.5 mg for children able/preferring to take tablets.  
Round doses to the nearest 0.1 mg for children taking in suspension form. (Strength is 1 mg/mL)

**Doxorubicin:**        Round doses to the nearest 1 mg

**Filgrastim (G-CSF)**    Round doses to nearest multiple of 3 mcg ( i.e. 86 mcg is not, but 87 mcg is evenly divisible by 3)

<b>Gentamicin:</b>	We dose @ 6 mg/kg Q24H. For infants dose to the nearest 1 mg, for older kids round doses to the nearest 5 mg. Levels are NOT required. On your Neonatal rotations, levels will probably be checked.
<b>Methotrexate:</b>	Round doses to the nearest 2.5 mg
<b>Mercaptopurine:</b>	Available as 50 mg tablets that can be quartered, for bigger kids that can take tablets, doses need to be rounded to the nearest 12.5 (1/4) tablet. For smaller children unable to swallow tablets there is a 50 mg/mL suspension, please round liquid doses to the nearest 5 mg.
<b>Ondansetron:</b>	4 or 8 mg tabs, not scored, not breakable. Liquid available as 0.8 mg/mL; round liquid doses to the nearest 0.4 mg (0.5 mL)
<b>Piperacillin:</b>	Dosed @ 75 mg/kg/dose (Max 3 Gm/dose if < 60 kg, 4 Gm/dose if > 60 kg) Q6H. Round doses to the nearest 100 mg.
<b>Tazocin:</b>	Dosed at 100 mg/kg/dose (Max 4.5 Gm/dose) <b>Q8H</b> . Round doses to the nearest 100 mg.
<b>Vancomycin:</b>	Dosed at 20 mg/kg/dose <b>Q12H</b> ; 30 mg/kg/dose for suspected Meningitis. A pre-dose (trough) level may be checked after 4 or 5 doses.
<b>Vincristine:</b>	Round doses to the nearest 0.1 mg; as with Asparaginase, there may be the odd infant whose dose will be calculated to the nearest 0.01 mg

A couple of other (practical) pointers around ordering drugs in general; please take these to heart and use them on all of your rotations.

- 1) Use leading zeros for doses < 1 mg Write 0.15 mg Morphine IV NOT .15 mg Morphine IV.
- 2) Don't use trailing zeros for integer doses. Write Insulin 2 Units Subcut ; NOT Insulin 2.0 Units. You'd be surprised how many times the decimal in 2.0 is missed/doesn't appear and a child gets 10x the dose of a drug. While we're on it, for drugs that come in Units...write UNITS after the dose not U...again, "U's" are easily mistaken for a 0 (zero).
- 3) With the exception of Septra suspension, all other oral meds should be dosed in mg, mcg, Units etc. Please don't order liquid meds in mLs!

When writing admission notes for children being admitted for chemotherapy, please include their Ht and Wt in your admission note! You won't be required to order chemo for these kids, we do that, but need that piece of information to calculate BSA.