

Novant – Winston Salem Market Pharmacy & Therapeutics Update Drug Information for Health Care Professionals



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Chemotherapy Order Writing Policy

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On May 28th, P&T approved a new policy to establish guidelines for ordering IV chemotherapy safely. Antineoplastic agents, regardless of their indication, can cause serious toxicities at FDA-approved dosages and administration schedules. Therefore, extra precautions are necessary to prevent medication errors related to these drugs. Notably, there are several exclusions to the policy, including oral and topical chemotherapy, monoclonal antibodies, targeted therapies (not chemotherapy), and interventional radiology. In the making of this policy, guidelines from the American Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists (ASHP), Oncology Nursing Society (ONS), American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) were consulted.

Many of the items in the policy are not new, and have been consolidated to one place from several existing policies. One major change, however, is the requirement for all chemotherapy, **even when used for non-oncology purposes**, to be ordered using a chemotherapy order form. This is in an effort to standardize our ordering process and reduce error potential. Blank chemotherapy order forms can be found on the Novant intranet.

Other pertinent changes to current practice include:

- Emphasis on generic names rather than brand name or abbreviations
- Necessary labs (drawn within 72 hours of chemotherapy) must be reviewed by a pharmacist prior to preparation
- Changes made to chemotherapy orders after they have been signed by the physician and placed on the medical record need to be written as a new order
- Verbal or telephone orders for initiating chemotherapy (regardless of indication) will not be accepted. Verbal or telephone orders for discontinuation or hold of chemotherapy are acceptable.
- All chemotherapy orders will be newly written for each cycle. Weekly chemotherapy orders must include the duration of treatment, not to exceed 4 weeks per order.
- Carboplatin AUC will be calculated using the Cockcroft-Gault equation for creatinine clearance rather than the Jelliffe method. If a physician wants the Jelliffe method to be used, it will need to be indicated on the chemotherapy order.

The start-date for this policy is to-be-determined, pending education requirements. Lastly, we are in the process of creating standardized order sets for all chemotherapy. If there is a chemotherapy regimen that is used frequently by your practice, please contact Amy Dooley (adooley@novanthealth.org) to help to create an order set.

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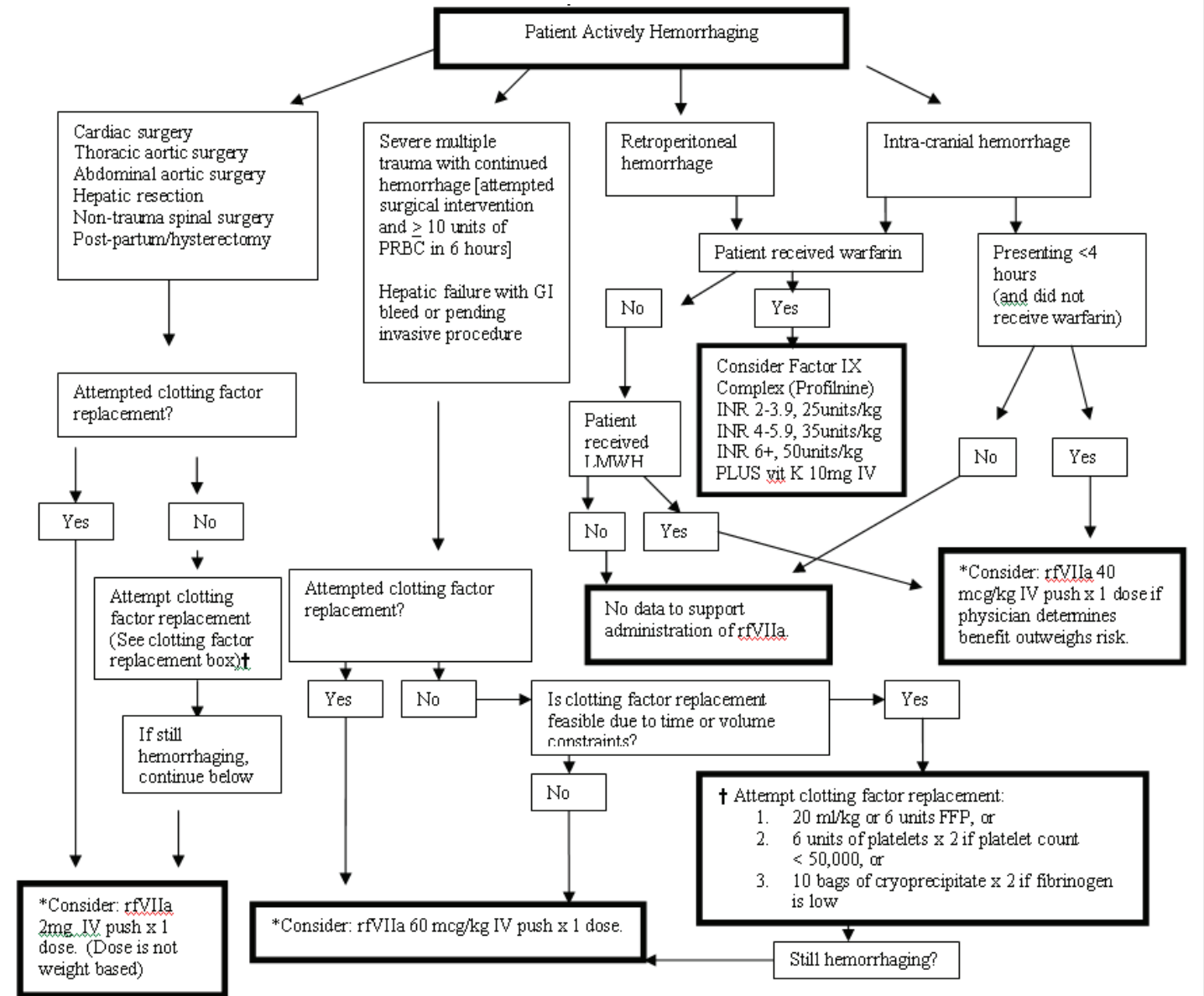
Inhaled Aminoglycoside therapeutic interchange

Ordered Medication	Dispensed Medication
TOBI [®] 300 mg BID	Amikacin 500 mg BID

When orders are written for Effexor XR[®] capsules, venlafaxine ER tablets will be dispensed.

Guidelines for OFF-LABEL use of rfVIIa (NovoSeven®) and Factor IX Complex (Profilnine®) - Approved May 28th, 2009

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- ***Consider Hematology consult to determine risk vs. benefit of using NovoSeven® /Profilnine off-label as time permits.**
- The majority of NovoSeven® doses range from 20 to 90 mcg/kg x 1 dose IV push. Pharmacy will round dose of NovoSeven to nearest vial size.
- 151 thromboembolic events attributed to the off-label use of NovoSeven® have been reported to the FDA. In 36 of 50 [72%] reported deaths, the probable cause of death was a thromboembolic event [O'Connell, 2006].
- **Cost:** ~\$1.15 per mcg (NovoSeven). ~\$0.65 per unit of Profilnine..