

10 TOP TIPS

Key steps in establishing a locally based chemotherapy service

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- 1** Identification of problem - largely a perception of patients
- 2** Discussion about possible solutions with Oncologists
- 3** Prepare business case for developing service to local Health Board
- 4** Development of protocols, safeguards, policies for dealing with problems and communication channels with cancer centre
- 5** Presentation of proposals to Oncology service, detailing whole patient pathway and safeguards in place to ensure patient safety
- 6** Agree protocols with oncology service
- 7** Training of nurses who are to administer chemotherapy
- 8** Education of wider health care community on issues such as managing neutropaenic sepsis
- 9** Implementation, review, fine tuning
- 10** Systematic planning to widen scope of service once established

The end result is a team providing a locally based chemotherapy administration service, operating as a satellite unit of a cancer centre. Toxicity checks and results of blood tests are communicated to the cancer centre ahead of preparation of chemotherapy preparation, so that waste is minimised, dose reductions are implemented if necessary and patients who require treatments that can only be given in the cancer centre do not make wasted journeys if they are unfit for their planned treatment. The Oncologists retain overall clinical responsibility for treatment and prescribe all of the chemotherapy.

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