Oral Chemotherapy Program Improvements – 2014
at PeaceHealth United General Medical Center – North Puget Cancer Center

The availability of oral chemotherapy drugs to treat some cancers is on the rise. Patients receiving these agents require monitoring and management of potential side effects, as well as tracking the specific requirements or recommendations associated with specific drugs. In 2014 North Puget Cancer Center at PeaceHealth United General Medical made the following improvements in their oral chemotherapy program in order to assure patients are receiving the best possible care:

- An Oncology Certified RN has been identified to assume responsibility for all patients on an oral chemotherapy medication.
- Prior to starting an oral chemotherapy drug, the patient is scheduled for a one hour teaching appointment with the oral chemotherapy RN.
- Together with the Clinical Manager of Oncology, and utilizing recognized oncology resources, the oral chemotherapy RN has developed drug specific Monitoring Requirements/Recommendation forms as well as drug specific Oral Chemotherapy Tracking forms. These forms contain information regarding administration, storage and monitoring requirements/recommendations, as well as a list of the most common side effects. Foods, liquids, and medications to avoid are also included. Development of these tracking forms is an on-going process as more oral chemotherapy drugs are made available.
- Patients who start an oral chemotherapy medication, or have a change in dose, receive a follow-up call by the oral chemotherapy RN 48 hours after they’ve started the drug in order to assess not only for adherence and compliance, but to assess for possible side effects and initiate treatment for them if applicable. A form was designed to track these calls, and the content of the call is documented in the electronic medical record.
- In order to increase the RN’s knowledge related to the management of patients on an oral chemotherapy drug, in 2015 the oral chemotherapy RN will enroll in the Oral Therapies for Cancer course offered through the Oncology Nursing Society.
CT Lung Cancer Screening

Lung Cancer is the leading cancer killer in the U.S., and smoking causes the majority of lung cancers, both in smokers and people exposed to second-hand smoke.

CT Lung Cancer Screenings can increase the chance of early detection, successful treatment and survival.

Talk to your provider about getting screened!

Benefits of Screening
The primary benefit of CT lung cancer screening is early detection, which improves your chances of having successful treatment and survival.

Risks of Screening
The only direct risk from a CT screening is from the radiation of the x-rays. The risk has been estimated to be equivalent to smoking one pack of cigarettes in an entire lifetime.

Should screening be repeated?
A negative chest screening now does not guarantee that cancer will not develop in the future. Periodic screening may be recommended for you depending on your risk factors. Yearly screening may be recommended for high risk patients.

Cost of Screening
For smokers without symptoms, CT lung cancer screenings are typically not covered by health insurance plans. Contact your insurance carrier to learn about your personal coverage. For patients who meet the screening criteria, the out-of-pocket expense is $150.

Getting my Results
A board-certified radiologist will interpret the images and prepare your results for your physician.

Scheduling a Screening
Call 360-856-7244 to find out if you meet the criteria for screening and schedule your appointment. A referral from your physician will be required.

PeaceHealth United General Medical Center
360-856-7244
www.peacehealth.org/united-general