
Subject: FW: CCLHD Pharmacy: Proposed change to the process for preparing cancer treatments

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 1 October 2021 4:28 PM
To: secretary <secretary@hsu.asn.au>
Cc: [REDACTED]

<Sarah.Bowen@health.nsw.gov.au>

Subject: CCLHD Pharmacy: Proposed change to the process for preparing cancer treatments

Dear Gerard,

This is to inform you of a proposed change in process (and personnel involved) for the preparation of cancer treatments (including chemotherapy) within CCLHD Pharmacy Cancer Services.

A number of our cancer technicians have expressed an interest in becoming "volume-checking technicians" (as are already in place at Prince of Wales and Westmead Childrens' pharmacies). Volume-checking technicians confirm the volume of drug added to a infusion bag (a second check) inside the sterile suite - this task is currently performed by a pharmacist at CCLHD. A pharmacist would perform a final check of the product (outside of the sterile suite) before administration to a patient, and would be the responsible registered (and insured) health professional. The volume-checking technician would undergo an accreditation program (and regular re-accreditation).

Cancer pharmacy staff were consulted earlier this year and again during the last two weeks; as a team we are generally in favour. Concerns raised (and management responses):

- Would the technician be liable for an error? Insurance is not available to them. *The pharmacist would be legally liable though we recognise that our technicians would feel responsible also.*
- Would volume-checking be optional for a cancer technician (or responsible pharmacist), or enforced? *This would be optional.*
- A volume-checking technician would not be remunerated for performing this task - our cancer technicians are already awarded pharmacy technician grade 3 and would not qualify for grade 4.
- The responsible pharmacist will not sight the addition of drug to the infusion bag. He/she must be confident that procedures for preparation and volume checking have been followed. *It is for the individual pharmacist to make this judgement.*

We intend to commence a pilot of the process w/c Monday 11th October, in part to assist with a pharmacist shortage. A SOP and accreditation documents have been drafted; they will be tested during the pilot to ensure that they are workable and robust.

Please would you confirm that this serves as adequate consultation with HSU? Please let me know if we can provide further information.

Many thanks,

[Redacted]

[Redacted] | [Team Leader Pharmacist - Clinical Trials](#)

Central Coast Local Health District

[Redacted]



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