

# LOS ANGELES GENERAL MEDICAL CENTER POLICY

Page 1	Of 4
Original Issue Date: 5/18/18	Policy # <b>956</b>
Supersedes: 5/18/18	Effective Date: 8/16/21

Subject: <b>CHEMOTHERAPY PHARMACY</b>	
Departments Consulted: Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee	Reviewed & Approved by: Attending Staff Association Executive Committee Senior Executive Council
Approved by: (Signature on File) Chief Medical Officer	
(Signature on File) Chief Executive Officer	

## PURPOSE

- A. The Chemotherapy Pharmacy comprises a team of dedicated pharmacists and pharmacy technicians who provide expert-level pharmaceutical care for patients receiving complicated or high-risk medication therapies including:
- Chemotherapy
  - Biologic medications
  - Hazardous medications
- B. This policy establishes and describes the Chemotherapy Pharmacy as a sub-department of the Los Angeles General Medical Center Pharmacy Department.

## POLICY

### A. **Mission**

1. The goal of the Chemotherapy Pharmacy is to provide expert-level pharmaceutical care for patients receiving complicated or high-risk medication therapies including chemotherapy, biologic medications, and hazardous medications.
2. Components of this goal include but are not limited to:
  - Delivering evidence-based and patient-centered medication therapy
  - Serving as an authoritative resource on the optimal use of medications
  - Managing and improving the medication use process
  - Supporting the ongoing development of expertise and professionalism at an interdisciplinary level

### B. **Scope of Service**

1. The Chemotherapy Pharmacy is responsible for all chemotherapy and hazardous medications that must be compounded prior to administration. The Chemotherapy

Subject: **CHEMOTHERAPY PHARMACY**Effective Date:  
8/16/21Policy #  
**956**

Pharmacy is responsible for biologic medications with complex manipulation requirements that must be compounded prior to administration.

2. Additionally, the Chemotherapy Pharmacy may choose to accept responsibility or to act from a consultative stance for:

- Patients being treated for a hematology or oncology indication
- Patients who are actually or potentially receiving chemotherapy, biologic medications, or hazardous medications regardless of compounding requirement
- Clinical issues involving chemotherapy, biologic medications, or hazardous medications
- Administrative issues involving chemotherapy, biologic medications, or hazardous medications

#### **C. Non-Clinical Activities**

The Chemotherapy Pharmacy is empowered to engage in the following non-clinical activities as related to its scope of service:

- Verification, preparation, and distribution of medication orders
- Procurement and storage of medications
- Precepting and mentoring of pharmacy students and residents in non-clinical roles

#### **D. Clinical Activities**

The Chemotherapy Pharmacy is empowered to engage in the following clinical activities as related to its scope of service:

- Therapy monitoring including assessment of laboratory and clinical records
- Therapy adjustment as described in Medical Center policy
- Consultation with other healthcare professionals
- Education of patients, caregivers, and other healthcare professionals
- Development and support of policies, protocols, and procedures
- Precepting and mentoring of pharmacy students and residents in clinical roles
- Other activities that support the goal of the Chemotherapy Pharmacy and that are within the profession's scope of practice

#### **E. Pharmacist Personnel**

Subject: **CHEMOTHERAPY PHARMACY**Effective Date:  
8/16/21Policy #  
**956**

1. To perform non-clinical activities of the Chemotherapy Pharmacy independently, pharmacists must:
  - Undergo a minimum six weeks training under a pharmacist qualified to perform clinical activities of the Chemotherapy Pharmacy independently
  - Successfully complete all required pharmacy staff training described in Medical Center Policy 947, “Hazardous Medications”
2. To perform clinical activities of the Chemotherapy Pharmacy independently, pharmacists must:
  - Demonstrate initial proficiency by fulfilling at least one of the following qualifications:
    - Minimum six months of full-time service to the Chemotherapy Pharmacy, successful completion of a written proficiency exam in hematology-oncology practice, and successful completion of experiential proficiency standards in hematology-oncology practice
    - Completion of a postgraduate year 2 residency in hematology-oncology
    - Board certification in oncology pharmacy from the Board of Pharmacy Specialties
  - At least every two years, demonstrate ongoing proficiency by successfully completing all of the following activities:
    - Written proficiency exam in hematology-oncology practice
    - Relevant continuing education, with a minimum of three hours related to chemotherapy, biologic medications, or hazardous medications
    - Clinical case review, with a minimum of ten cases demonstrating sufficient variety in clinical competencies

#### **F. Pharmacy Technician Personnel**

1. To perform non-clinical activities of the Chemotherapy Pharmacy under the supervision of a pharmacist, pharmacy technicians must undergo a minimum four weeks training and must successfully complete all required pharmacy staff training described in Medical Center Policy 947, “Hazardous Medications.”

Subject: **CHEMOTHERAPY PHARMACY**Effective Date:  
8/16/21Policy #  
**956**

2. Pharmacy technicians must not perform clinical activities of the Chemotherapy Pharmacy.

**DEFINITIONS**

- Biologic medications: medications often derived from living systems and consisting of complex molecules or a mixture of molecules
- Chemotherapy: medication treatment intended to stop or slow the growth of malignant cells
- Hazardous medications: medications that exhibit carcinogenicity, genotoxicity, reproductive toxicity, teratogenicity or other developmental toxicity, organ toxicity at low doses, or a structure and toxicity profile that mimics an existing hazardous medication

**RESPONSIBILITY**

Pharmacy Department

**REFERENCES**

- American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO)/Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) Chemotherapy Administration Safety Standards, including Standards for Pediatric Oncology, 2016
- Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association Guideline: Scope of Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Practice
- Institute for Safe Medication Practice (ISMP) International Medication Safety Self-Assessment for Oncology, 2012

**REVISION DATES**

August 16, 2021