Appendix F: Chemotherapy Administration Sequence

The NCCN Templates® designate a specific recommended order of administration when there has been conclusive evidence to support a suggested chemotherapy sequence based on improved efficacy, decreased toxicity, or established clinical practice.

Regimens with a recommended order of administration are designated with the phrase “followed by.”

For example:

PACLitaxel 175 mg/m² IV over 3 hours on Day 1 followed by

CARBOplatin AUC 5 IV over 30 minutes on Day 1

The order of administration of agents within chemotherapy regimens is complex, and for most regimens, evidence is lacking. In practice, a number of safety and logistical considerations are considered for medication sequences, including:

- Patient-specific considerations
  - Tolerance
  - Assessment for labs or toxicities prior to administration
  - Type of intravenous access

- Drug-specific properties
  - Vesicants
  - Duration of infusion
  - Timing of supportive medications
  - Theoretical or established benefits (increased efficacy/decreased toxicity)
  - Preparation and reconstitution time
  - Compatibility of multiple agents
  - Risk of infusion reactions
  - Investigational agents (requirements of clinical trial)


Newly approved agents not included in the above reference will be reviewed on a template-by-template basis to assess the need for specific instructions regarding order of administration.

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