

# Antineoplastic Therapy Administration Safety Standards for Adult and Pediatric Oncology: ASCO-ONS Standards

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**PURPOSE:** To update the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO)-Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) standards for antineoplastic therapy administration safety in adult and pediatric oncology and highlight current standards for antineoplastic therapy for adult and pediatric populations with various routes of administration and location.

**METHODS:** ASCO and ONS convened a multidisciplinary Expert Panel with representation of multiple organizations to conduct literature reviews and add to the standards as needed. The evidence base was combined with the opinion of the ASCO-ONS Expert Panel to develop antineoplastic safety standards and guidance. Public comments were solicited and considered in preparation of the final manuscript.

**RESULTS:** The standards presented here include clarification and expansion of existing standards to include home administration and other changes in processes of ordering, preparing, and administering antineoplastic therapy; the advent of immune effector cellular therapy; the importance of social determinants of health; fertility preservation; and pregnancy avoidance. In addition, the standards have added a fourth verification. (*Continued on the next page*)

**KEYWORDS** antineoplastic therapy administration; guidelines; safety; standards; oncology

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The purpose of these standards is to update the 2016 Updated American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO)/Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) Chemotherapy Administration Safety Standards, Including Standards for Pediatric Oncology.<sup>1-5</sup>

Over the past 15 years, ASCO and ONS have collaborated to create and reassess standards for the administration of antineoplastic therapy to maximize safety for patients with cancer and to minimize inadvertent but preventable harms with this potentially toxic set of compounds.<sup>1-6</sup> In 2016, the respective organizations last published updates of these standards; that version explicitly included the pediatric population as does this version.

These standards have been fundamental principles of the two organizations, and a variety of quality programs including ASCO's Quality Oncology Practice Initiative and its certification programs have included selected standards<sup>7</sup> and will be discussed for incorporation in the new ASCO Certified Patient-Centered Cancer Care Standards. These standards focus on the requisite training of individuals involved with the provision of these medications as well as the preparation, labeling, and ultimately the administration of therapy at home<sup>8</sup> or in a health care facility. They are a blueprint for optimizing and standardizing the various steps in the process where medical errors can occur.<sup>9</sup> These standards attempt to inoculate the process against