

# Cancer Services – State-wide Cancer Chemotherapy Policy Directive

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# Cancer Services – State-wide Cancer Chemotherapy Policy Directive

## 1. Policy Statement

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The purpose of this policy is to establish state-wide governance over the development, approval and maintenance of cancer chemotherapy protocols and prescribing tools.

- 1.1 SA Health acknowledges that the safety and quality of medicines in use is an essential component of patient care.
- 1.2 SA Health recognises that robust governance of cancer chemotherapy prescribing supports clinicians in providing safe and effective care and enhanced consumer outcomes.
- 1.3 This policy defines a state-wide, quality assured framework for development, approval and review of cancer chemotherapy protocols and prescribing tools for use within SA Health hospitals and health services.
- 1.4 This policy outlines the use of eviQ treatments online as the primary resource for adult cancer chemotherapy protocols.

## 2. Roles and Responsibilities

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Chief Executive, SA Health, is responsible for:

- Ensuring SA public hospitals and health services are aware of and comply with the principles of this policy.

Local Health Network Chief Executive Officers will:

- delegate the day-to-day responsibility for complying with this policy to the relevant senior managers and clinicians;
- ensure the health services under their administration have systems and resources in place to ensure adherence to this policy;
- ensure surveillance of adherence of this policy;
- ensure surveillance information is reported to SA Health Cancer Drug Committee and other appropriate committees.

Executive Directors, Directors, Heads of service/departments and other senior managers will:

- Promote awareness of the importance of adherence to this policy providing support for clinicians and patients;
- ensure local policies, procedures and resources are implemented to facilitate policy implementation, adherence and reporting via the approved process;
- create an environment where any incident relating to cancer treatment is notified and investigated, including implementation of strategies to reduce the likelihood of a similar incident occurring.

SA Health Cancer Drug Committee (SAHCDC) will:

- Provide overarching governance of development, approval and review of cancer chemotherapy protocols and prescribing tools and related processes;
- support SA Health hospitals and health services to implement this policy by provision of advice, information and regular updates on the procedures related to development, approval and review of cancer chemotherapy protocols and prescribing tools;
- maintain the SA Health Approved Cancer Chemotherapy Protocol Register.

All SA Health employees will:

- adhere to the aims and principles of this policy;
- ensure that local policies and procedures are followed to ensure organisational adherence to this policy.

\* This policy does not apply to cancer chemotherapy protocols that are part of an approved Clinical Trial. Clinical trial protocols go through a robust governance process overseen by Ethics Committees.

### 3. Policy Requirements

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- 3.1** All cancer chemotherapy protocols\* to be used in SA Health will be reviewed and endorsed via the approved state-wide process established by the SA Health Cancer Drug Committee.  
(\*NB: Clinical trial protocols, including those for paediatric, young adult and adult patients, are subject to a separate [SA Health Governance Framework](#) and are not included under this policy)
- 3.2** All cancer chemotherapy protocols submitted for inclusion on the SA Health Approved Cancer Chemotherapy Protocol Register will be evidence-based and meet all SA Health and relevant legislative and professional requirements before endorsement.
- 3.3** Procedures and guidance for use by LHN's and cancer services to support the development, approval and maintenance of cancer chemotherapy protocols for use in SA Health will be available.
- 3.4** All new cancer chemotherapy protocols, amendments to protocols and requests to deviate from an aspect of an eviQ protocol will be submitted to the state-wide process for approval.
- 3.5** Cancer chemotherapy protocols for the SA Health Approved Cancer Chemotherapy Protocol Register will either be developed by or will be reviewed by an appropriate tumour-stream group or group of clinicians with a recognised expertise in the therapeutic area before endorsement by the SA Health Cancer Drug Committee.
- 3.6** The SA Health Approved Cancer Chemotherapy Protocols Register will list cancer chemotherapy protocols approved under the state-wide process for use in SA Health hospitals and health services. All protocols listed on the register will be regularly reviewed, and where necessary, updated or removed.
- 3.7** Occasional, individual patient use of cancer chemotherapy protocols not on the register is facilitated via the Use of a Non-Registered Cancer Chemotherapy Protocol Request Form (Single patient use) pathway.
- 3.8** Procedures and guidance based on best practice will be available for use by LHN's and cancer services to support the Non-Registered Cancer Chemotherapy Protocol Request Form (Single patient use).
- 3.9 Use of eviQ treatments online**
- 3.9.1 eviQ is the primary resource for evidence-based chemotherapy and targeted therapy treatment protocols used within SA Health for the treatment of adults.

3.9.2 eviQ treatments online is an Australian government, freely available online resource of cancer treatment protocols developed by multidisciplinary teams of cancer specialists. eviQ provides evidence-based information to support health professionals in the delivery of cancer treatments available at the time treatment decisions are being made. The eviQ website will be accessed via <https://www.eviq.org.au>.

3.9.3 Cancer chemotherapy protocols that are currently listed on eviQ treatments online will go through a streamlined approval process by the SA Health Cancer Committee if requested for inclusion on the Approved Cancer Chemotherapy Protocols register..

### **3.10 Non-eviQ based cancer chemotherapy protocols**

3.10.1 All cancer chemotherapy protocols that are required for regular use in SA Health and not listed on eviQ will be submitted to the state-wide approval and endorsement process.

3.10.2 Endorsement for a cancer chemotherapy protocol required for regular use in SA Health not listed on eviQ will be supported by evidence of efficacy.

- This may include, but not be limited to: Internationally recognised cancer chemotherapy protocol sources (e.g. British Columbia Cancer Agency (BCCA) (Canada), <https://www.nccn.org/> (US), Peer-reviewed published journal article.
- This does not include: article abstract only

3.11 Chemotherapy prescribing tools used within the LHNs (e.g. pdfs, templates and spreadsheets) for approved protocols will be developed, implemented and maintained according to a set of clinical governance standards overseen and endorsed by the SA Health Cancer Drug Committee. Standardisation in these processes will support the efficient translation to a future statewide electronic chemotherapy prescribing solution.

3.12 All cancer chemotherapy protocols listed on the SA Health Approved Cancer Chemotherapy Protocol Register will be regularly reviewed:

- eviQ listed protocols will be reviewed every 3 years or sooner (e.g. new clinical evidence/eviQ updates).
- Protocols not listed on eviQ will be reviewed every 2 years or sooner (e.g. protocol is added to eviQ).

## **4. Implementation & Monitoring**

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The SA Health Cancer Drug Committee (SAHCDC) will be responsible for overseeing the development and updating of the SA Health Approved Cancer Chemotherapy Protocol Register, oversight of LHN/cancer service governance on the development of chemotherapy prescribing tools and reporting of data including:









- 4.1 Annual report on Register changes due to oncology and haematology practice changes.
- 4.2 Twice-yearly reports on SAHCDC activity to South Australian Medicines Advisory Committee (SAMAC).
- 4.3 Monthly reporting on Use of a Non-Registered Cancer Chemotherapy Protocol Request Form (Single patient use) including identification of new protocols required for

development from multiple use of a chemotherapy protocol under this procedure.

- 4.4 Monthly updates of the SA Health Approved Cancer Chemotherapy Protocol Register.
- 4.5 Review of all cancer chemotherapy protocols housed on the SA Health Approved Cancer Chemotherapy Protocol Register.
- 4.6 Reports of LHN self-assessments against clinical governance framework for development, maintenance and review of chemotherapy prescribing tools.

## 5. National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards

									
<a href="#">National Standard 1</a> <a href="#">Governance for Safety and Quality in Health Care</a>	<a href="#">National Standard 2</a> <a href="#">Partnering with Consumers</a>	<a href="#">National Standard 3</a> <a href="#">Preventing &amp; Controlling Healthcare associated infections</a>	<a href="#">National Standard 4</a> <a href="#">Medication Safety</a>	<a href="#">National Standard 5</a> <a href="#">Patient Identification &amp; Procedure Matching</a>	<a href="#">National Standard 6</a> <a href="#">Clinical Handover</a>	<a href="#">National Standard 7</a> <a href="#">Blood and Blood Products</a>	<a href="#">National Standard 8</a> <a href="#">Preventing &amp; Managing Pressure Injuries</a>	<a href="#">National Standard 9</a> <a href="#">Recognising &amp; Responding to Clinical Deterioration</a>	<a href="#">National Standard 10</a> <a href="#">Preventing Falls &amp; Harm from Falls</a>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

							
<a href="#">National Standard 1</a> <a href="#">Clinical Governance</a>	<a href="#">National Standard 2</a> <a href="#">Partnering with Consumers</a>	<a href="#">National Standard 3</a> <a href="#">Preventing &amp; Controlling Healthcare-Associated Infection</a>	<a href="#">National Standard 4</a> <a href="#">Medication Safety</a>	<a href="#">National Standard 5</a> <a href="#">Comprehensive Care</a>	<a href="#">National Standard 6</a> <a href="#">Communicating for Safety</a>	<a href="#">National Standard 7</a> <a href="#">Blood Management</a>	<a href="#">National Standard 8</a> <a href="#">Recognising &amp; Responding to Acute Deterioration</a>
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## 6. Definitions

**Chemotherapy Protocol:** A chemotherapy protocol is a document, defining the drugs to be used, their dosage, the frequency and duration of treatments, and other information such as side-effects, drug interactions, how and when dose modifications are recommended, administration details and evidence for effect. Chemotherapy Protocols may be for one drug, or for two or more drugs in combination chemotherapy.

**Chemotherapy prescribing tool** – a system providing a written or electronic version of the prescribed chemotherapy regimen which includes dose calculations, frequency, scheduling and supportive care medications.

## 7. Associated Policy Directives / Policy Guidelines and Resources

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eviQ Treatments online <https://www.eviq.org.au/>

## 8. Document Ownership & History

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**Document developed by:** Medicines and Technology Programs (MTP) and Out of Hospital Pharmacy Services Department for Health and Ageing  
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If so, which version?  
Does this policy replace another policy with a different title? **N**  
If so, which policy (title)?  
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12/07/18	V1.0	SA Health Policy Committee	Original SA Health Policy Committee approved version.

Use full numbers when a substantial change or full review of the policy has taken place.  
Use 1.1, 1.2 etc. when the update is minor in nature eg change in legislation name.

Refer to the 'Policy Approval Delegations' for the appropriate approving authority.