



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

JOYCE P. GRIFFIN-SOBEL, RN, PhD, AOCN®, APRN-BC

Author Comments on Drug-Dispensing Change

In March 2005, the dispensing instructions for temozolomide (Temodar®, Schering-Plough, Kenilworth, NJ) were changed, and this has an impact on question 2 in the February 2005 Test Your Knowledge column, "Oral Chemotherapy" (Vol. 9, pp. 107–109), written by Megan Rezendes, RN, MS, AOCN®, and me.

Specifically, the recommended dispensing method for Temodar has changed. Pharmacists previously were instructed to dispense

the drug in daily dose packs. Temodar has a new indication, and when the package information was revised, the instructions for the dispensing method were changed as well.

I am calling this to your attention for two reasons. First, because this change renders the answer to question 2 as published no longer correct. Second, if patients were receiving daily dose packs, they need to be informed that the drug's dispensing method may have changed. Patients might be caught unaware and medication errors could result (e.g., if a patient expects one vial to be one day's dose and that is not how it is provided).

Nurses caring for patients taking Temodar are in a position to minimize the risk by alerting patients to the potential for changes in dispensing method.

The recently revised changes to the product information for Temodar can be found online at www.temodar.com.

*Ann Birner, PharmD, BCOP
Clinical Specialist, Hematology/Oncology
Pharmacy Department
Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center
Lebanon, NH*

The Associate Editor Responds

I would like to thank Dr. Birner for the update regarding the method of dispensation for oral Temodar. As readers are aware, information regarding newer chemotherapeutic agents often is updated to reflect changes in manufacturing, packaging, or administration practices. Clinicians must remain abreast of these changes to maintain safe standards of patient care and safe handling for those who administer chemotherapy.

*William P. Hogle, RN, MSN, OCN®
Associate Editor*

ONS Publishing Division Policy Regarding "Letters to the Editor"

Selection of letters to be published in "Letters to the Editor" is the decision of the editor. For acceptance, letters must be signed. They can appear anonymously if requested by the author. All letters are subject to editing.

Letters that question, criticize, or respond to a previously published *Clinical Journal of Oncology Nursing* article automatically will be sent to the author of that article for a reply. This type of collegial exchange is encouraged. Letters that question, criticize, or respond to an Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) policy, product, or activity will appear in the *ONS News* and automatically will be sent to the ONS Board of Directors for a reply. Send letters to

Joyce P. Griffin-Sobel, RN, PhD, AOCN®, APRN-BC
Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing
749 West End Ave., Apt. 9B, New York, NY 10025
CJONeditor@jsobel.com

Digital Object Identifier: 10.1188/05.CJON.398

SOCIETY OF NATIONAL ASSOCIATION PUBLICATIONS CONFERS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD ON *CLINICAL JOURNAL OF ONCOLOGY NURSING* ARTICLE

The Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) is pleased to announce that the Society of National Association Publications (SNAP) has conferred the Bronze Award in the Scholarly Journals, Feature Article, category to "Thromboembolic Disorders in Cancer" by Ruth Van Gerpen, RN, MS, OCN®, and Merle E. Mast, PhD, RN, ANP, which appeared in the *Clinical Journal of Oncology Nursing* (Vol. 8, No. 3,



pp. 289–299). Award recipients are selected based on the feature article's in-depth exploration of a single topic to inform or instruct.

The award was presented and the entry displayed at the SNAP Publications Management Conference in Washington, DC, in June 2005.

For more information on contributing to the *Clinical Journal of Oncology Nursing* or other ONS publications, visit the Publications area of the ONS Web site (www.ons.org).