

ALL WALES COMPETENCIES FOR REVIEW, AUTHORISATION AND PRESCRIBING OF SYSTEMIC ANTI-CANCER THERAPY (SACT) FOR ADULT PATIENTS

Version 1	Authors	
	Dr Catherine Bale: Associate Medical Director (Wales Cancer Network) Rosie Roberts: Clinical Lead Nurse SACT & AO (Wales Cancer Network) Dr Rachel Jones: Consultant Oncologist (Swansea Bay UHB) Dr Simon Waters: Consultant Medical Oncologist (Velindre University NHS Trust) Dr Anna Mullard: Consultant Medical Oncologist (Betsi Cadwaladr UHB)	
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Introduction

The systemic management of cancer involves use of a wide range of agents. These include cytotoxic agents, monoclonal antibodies, immunotherapy and small molecule targeted agents. For simplicity, these agents are referred to as systemic anticancer therapies (SACT).

For safe and effective use, it is essential that all individuals prescribing SACT have a thorough working knowledge of their mode of action, metabolism and potential side effects. The prescriber must understand how patient-related factors may necessitate dose or schedule alterations. The need for formal assessment of and documentation of competency in prescribing SACT is based on the following:

1. NCAG (National Chemotherapy Advisory Group) in response to the NCEPOD report (National Confidential Enquiry into Patient Outcome and Death (www.ncepod.org.uk) suggested that prescribing, prescription verification and dispensing of chemotherapy should only be undertaken by appropriately trained staff. In addition all SACT services should maintain up to date lists of staff that are authorised to prescribe, check prescriptions and dispense chemotherapy.
2. Revised guidance for the Safe Delivery of Systemic Anti-Cancer Therapy (Scottish Government CEL 30 (2012). Included in this guidance is a requirement that “All staff involved in SACT have appropriate skills, knowledge and training in their field of practice”.
3. ‘Achieving safer prescription of cytotoxic agents: Academy recommendations 2015
4. Concerns regarding the prescribing and administration of cytotoxic and immunosuppressant agents by Foundation Doctors: An Investigation of Prevailing Practice, AoMRC 2013,

Several levels of competency are described in the process of reviewing, authorising and prescribing of SACT and this document outlines the competencies required for each level.

Trainees can only authorise or prescribe under appropriate supervision within their competency level. Progress to the next level of competency requires assessment as competent by an appropriate supervisor having demonstrated the required knowledge, skills and behaviours.

These competencies are designed to be used to allow all healthcare professionals to gain the appropriate skills, expertise and experience in the assessment, monitoring and prescribing of SACT in the area of their practice. Trainees require appropriate supervision and access to support at all times.

The completed competencies can be used to provide evidence of competencies in SACT prescribing obtained when transferring to a new employer.

SACT prescribing competency register; a register of competent prescribers will be held and updated by the SACT governance lead / lead oncology pharmacist.

Review of competency: Evidence of participation in education and training opportunities to ensure knowledge for practice is current, and confirmation that they are continuing to regularly authorise and / or prescribe SACT will be required at annual appraisal. This review will be documented on the register of competent prescribers.

Levels of competence

The following levels are based on the Specialty Training curriculum for medical oncology 2017 where Level 2 is the first level at which authorising SACT is permitted. The terminology used assumes that Chemocare is being used to allocate (initiate), confirm and authorise SACT prescriptions.

Competency Level 2:

- Able to assess an individual patient's toxicities, interpret critical tests eg blood results and authorise SACT treatment that has been previously allocated and confirmed.
- Applicable to registered nurses or pharmacists working in SACT services and ST3 (or above) doctors.

Competency Level 3:

- Able to prescribe SACT already initiated and make dose modifications within local guidelines.
- Applicable to registered nurses and pharmacists with a non-medical prescriber qualification and ST3 (or above) doctors.

Competency Level 4:

- Able to initiate SACT prescribing within local guidelines, including investigational agents in the context of a clinical trial. Will require assessment and sign off for each tumour specific area of clinical practice during rotation.
- Applicable to ST3 (or above) doctors.

Competency Level 5:

- Able to prescribe and initiate SACT and customise treatment for complex patients.
- Applicable to medical trainees / doctors demonstrating competence at a level expected of a consultant

National standards:

British Oncology Pharmacist Association (BOPA) -

http://www.bopawebsite.org/contentimages/publications/Clinical_pharmacy_workforce_final2015.pdf

Joint Royal Colleges of Physicians Training Board (Medical Oncology) - <http://www.jrcptb.org.uk/specialties/medical-oncology>

Joint Royal Colleges of Physicians Training Board (Haematology) - <http://www.jrcptb.org.uk/specialties/haematology>

United Kingdom Oncology Nursing Society (UKONS) - <http://ecancer.org/journal/6/full/263-best-practice-in-nurse-led-chemotherapy-review-a-position-statement-from-the-united-kingdom-oncology-nursing-society.php>

**Competency level 2: Review & Authorise administration of Systemic Anti-Cancer Therapy (SACT).
Record of Competencies**

Name: Job Title:.....

Competency level 2 (Review and Authorise Administration of Systemic Anticancer therapy)	Supporting Statement / List of Evidence	Date Achieved	Supervisor Signature
Ability to define the scientific mechanism of action of the SACT used in the management of cancer patients			
To define the likely adverse effects of SACT in common usage within the service			
Ability to review a prescription for systemic therapy and accurately identify errors or omissions			
Ability to assess patient fitness to proceed with SACT – assessment of toxicities and relevant laboratory investigations /critical tests			
Ability to correctly and accurately authorise treatment to proceed	Completion of 8 supervised authorisations of SACT		
Ability to identify appropriate pharmacological and non-pharmacological supportive measures that may be required for SACT			
Ability to determine the antiemetic requirements of patients receiving SACT			
Ability to define the principles for dose delay or dose reduction of systemic therapies, based upon haematological toxicity.			

Competency level 2: Review & Authorise administration of SACT.

A minimum of 8 SACT prescriptions should be authorised under supervision

	SACT regimen	Date	Supervisor signature
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			

Practitioner's Signature:.....**Date:**.....

I confirm that

Has completed level 2 competency to review and authorise SACT prescriptions

Competency Approved by: name;..... **sign;**.....**Date:**.....
(Clinical supervisor: Oncologist/Haematologist/ Lead SACT nurse)

Completed forms to be copied and sent to *(the SACT governance lead / lead oncology pharmacist**)* for entry onto the SACT prescribing competency register

** adapt locally as appropriate

Competency level 3: Prescribe Systemic Anti-Cancer Therapy which has been initiated

Record of Competencies

Name: Job Title:.....

Competency level 3 (Prescribe Systemic Anticancer therapy – 2 nd cycle onwards)	Supporting Statement / List of Evidence	Date Achieved	Staff Signature
Completion of competency level 2			
Ability to perform a thorough assessment of toxicity and record the clinical information using defined systems such as the Common Toxicity Criteria.			
To define the scientific basis and parameters for dose modifications to SACT in the light of clinical data relating to the liver, renal, haematological and other organ systems.			
Ability to institute appropriate modifications in the prescription of SACT in the light of clinical data that will relate to dose modification parameters relating to organ function			
Ability to modify the dosage of systemic therapy based on pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic information relating to a patient within agreed guidelines			
Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the methods for calculating the correct dose of medication for administration including those based on BSA, pharmacokinetic/ pharmacodynamic principles.			
Ability to prescribe antiemetic medications appropriate to the chosen therapy and modified following review of the patients situation and symptoms following previous treatments.			
Ability to define and initiate appropriately the pharmacological and non-pharmacological supportive measures that may be required by patients receiving SACT, including growth factors and antibiotics.			

Competency level 3 - CONTINUED	Supporting Statement / List of Evidence	Date Achieved	Staff Signature
Ability to accurately prescribe and order SACT without error or omission (following assessment of the patient and relevant investigations)	Completion of minimum of 8 SACT prescriptions – 2nd cycle onwards		
Ability to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the indications for and adverse reactions associated with the use of blood products			
Ability to obtain informed consent for SACT following local guidelines			
Ability to request assistance and advice when a situation requires the involvement of a more senior colleague.			
Ability to determine the appropriateness of continuing treatment, particularly in patients with poor performance status or significant comorbid conditions. Non-medical prescribers following agreement by senior medical staff.			
Ability to assess objective tumour responses and toxicity and make a balanced judgement about continuing. Non-medical prescribers following agreement by senior medical staff.			
Ability to be an educational supervisor of trainees in competency levels 1 & 2			

Competency level 3: Prescribe Systemic Anti-Cancer Therapy which has been initiated

A minimum of 8 SACT prescriptions for cycle 2 onwards should be completed under supervision, these should include a range of regimens within the area of practice.

Area of practice:.....

Supervisor to specify below any named regimens, which should be included:

	SACT regimen	Date	Supervisor signature
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			

Practitioner’s Signature:.....**Date:**.....

I confirm that

Has completed level 3 competency to prescribe SACT that has been previously initiated

Competency Approved by: name;..... **sign;**.....**Date:**.....
 (Educational supervisor or senior clinician with responsibility for SACT)

Completed forms to be copied and sent to *(the SACT governance lead / lead oncology pharmacist**)* for entry onto the SACT prescribing competency register

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Competency level 4: Initiation of Systemic Anti-Cancer Therapy – 1st Cycle onwards (ST3 & above)

Record of Competencies

Name: **Job Title:**.....

Competency level 4 (Initiation of Systemic Anticancer therapy – 1st cycle onwards)	Supporting Statement / List of Evidence	Date Achieved	Doctor Signature
Completion of level 3 competency			
To define the scientific mechanism of action of SACT used in the management of cancer patients and identify when this may react with other prescribed drugs			
Ability to define the long-term effects of SACT			
Ability to define the requirements of Good Clinical Practice as it relates to clinical trials			
Ability to initiate SACT systemic therapy for a defined area of practice following detailed assessment of a patient and considering the decisions made by multidisciplinary team meeting.	Completion of minimum of 8 supervised 1 st cycle SACT prescriptions		
Ability to modify the dosage of systemic therapy based on pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic information relating to a patient.			
Ability to appropriately request assistance or advice when a situation requires the involvement of a more senior colleague.			
Ability to assess objective tumour response by clinical, serological and radiological parameters including the use of RECIST 1.1 criteria			
Ability to consider patients eligible for local clinical trials within tumour specific area and initiate and prescribe subsequent SACT as co-investigator.			
Ability to be an educational supervisor of trainees in competency levels 1, 2 & 3.			

Competency level 4: Initiation of SACT– 1st Cycle onwards (ST3 & above)

A minimum of 8 SACT prescriptions for 1st cycle should be completed under supervision, these should include a range of regimens within the area of practice.

Area of practice:.....

Supervisor to specify below any named regimens, which should be included:

	SACT regimen	Date	Supervisor signature
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			

Practitioner’s Signature:.....**Date:**.....

I confirm that

Has completed level 4 competency to initiate and prescribe 1st cycle SACT

Competency Approved by: name;..... **sign;**.....**Date:**.....
 (Educational supervisor or senior clinician with responsibility for SACT

Completed forms to be copied and sent to *(the SACT governance lead / lead oncology pharmacist**)* for entry onto the SACT prescribing competency register

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Competency level 5: Initiation of Systemic Anti-Cancer Therapy (Consultant level)

Record of Competencies

Name: Job Title:.....

Competency level 5 Consultant level	Supporting Statement / List of Evidence	Date Achieved	Doctor Signature
Completion of level 4 competency			
Can define strategies to introduce a new therapy within a clinical department			
Can identify the training needs of all healthcare professional involved in SACT prescribing			
Ability to define the regulatory framework for the development of new SACT			
Ability to identify the exceptional circumstances when it will be necessary to customise a SACT prescription for an individual patient			
Ability to perform a critical analysis of the published evidence of benefit for a new therapy and advise re the cost effectiveness and likely benefits			
Ability to participate in the evaluation of a new therapy as an investigator for a clinical trial			
Demonstrates leadership within a directorate eg involvement with development and maintenance of guidelines/ introduction of new therapies			
Ability to supervise training of SACT prescribing			

Competency level 5: Initiation of Systemic Anti-Cancer Therapy (Consultant level)

A minimum of 8 SACT prescriptions for 1st cycle should be completed under supervision, these should include a range of regimens within the area of practice and prescribing for patients with complex needs including rare tumours, co-morbidities, impaired organ function

Area of practice:.....

Supervisor to specify below any named regimens /specific conditions that should be included:

	SACT regimen	Date	Supervisor signature
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			

Practitioner's Signature:.....**Date:**.....

I confirm that

Has completed level 5 competency to initiate and prescribe SACT at Consultant level

Competency Approved by: name;..... **sign;**.....**Date:**.....
(SACT lead clinician)

Completed forms to be copied and sent to *(the SACT governance lead / lead oncology pharmacist**)* for entry onto the SACT prescribing competency register

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