

## Initiation Checklist for a New Start Oral Chemotherapy

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- Proper administration while considering drug-drug and drug-food interactions
  - Discuss how this medication should be taken (with or without food, times per day, etc)
  - Refer to food-drug interaction chart
  - Counsel patient on not taking any other medication, including over-the-counter products without first consulting with his/her oncologist/oncology pharmacist
- Adherence
  - Concern of missing even one dose (data in certain malignancies such as CML has shown >90% adherence is needed for optimal outcomes)
  - What to do if a dose is missed or if too much has been taken
- Side Effects
  - Common side effects and discuss how they can be managed (nausea, pain, rashes, etc)
  - Encourage being upfront with associated side effects so they do not affect adherence
  - Discuss serious side effects that warrant immediate medical attention (fever > 100.4, trouble breathing, bloody stool, chest pain, rapid weight gain, etc)
  - Potential for bone marrow suppression, which may require dose holding
- Monitoring and Labs
  - Frequency and type of labs that will be collected during therapy
  - Review package insert for laboratory monitoring
- Handling oral chemotherapy as a hazardous substance
  - Just as strong as an IV chemotherapy
  - No splitting, crushing, chewing tablets
  - Take necessary steps to not expose others to the medication or bodily fluids (especially children, pets, and pregnant women)
  - Wash hands after handling medications; caregivers should wear gloves
  - Storage in original containers in a cool, dry place away from moisture
- Access and Affordability
  - Recognize that a prior authorization may be required and copay of oral chemotherapy may be high
  - Patient should be given contact information for specialty pharmacy
  - Has his/her oral chemotherapy ever been received late? And what to do if it does.
  - Is he/she having trouble affording his/her medication? And what to do if he/she is having trouble
  - Encourage requesting a refill at least 7 days before running out

From Oncology Nursing Society

<https://www.onsoralchemoguide.com/>