

Methotrexate for Non-Oncologic Use

Scope: Unless otherwise stated, these items pertain to methotrexate administered by any route (i.e., oral, IM, subcutaneous, or IV) and used **ONLY** to treat non-oncologic conditions, such as rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis, certain connective tissue or muscle inflammatory diseases, Crohn’s disease, and multiple sclerosis. Methotrexate used for an oncologic indication is **EXCLUDED**.

Self-Assessment Items

A	There has been no activity to implement this item.
B	This item has been formally discussed and considered, but it has not been implemented.
C	This item has been partially implemented for some or all patients, orders, drugs, or staff.
D	This item is fully implemented for some patients, orders, drugs, or staff.
E	This item is fully implemented for all patients, orders, drugs, or staff.

		A	B	C	D	E
Computer Decision Support and Warnings						
FAQ 1	Computer order entry systems have been programmed to default to a weekly rather than daily dosage regimen for subcutaneous, IM, and oral methotrexate.					
2a	Computer order entry systems require a HARD STOP verification and mandatory entry or selection from a drop-down menu of an appropriate oncologic indication for subcutaneous, IM, and oral methotrexate in order to override the weekly dosage regimen and select a daily schedule for a defined number of doses or days.					
OR	OR					
2b	For manual systems and computer order entry systems that do not allow a HARD STOP , pharmacists clarify daily orders for subcutaneous, IM, and oral methotrexate if the patient does not have a documented oncologic diagnosis, to ensure the frequency and duration is appropriate and safe for the patient.					
Folate Supplement						
3	If folate has not been prescribed with methotrexate, pharmacists follow up with the prescriber to determine if initiation of this supplement is desired.					
30-Day Supply						
4	Prescriptions for non-oncologic use of methotrexate provided to patients upon discharge only include the number of tablets or other dosage forms needed for weekly dosing, not to exceed a 4-week (30-day) supply.					
Patient Education (Includes Caregiver Education When Appropriate)						
5	Patients who are discharged on methotrexate receive clear verbal <u>and</u> up-to-date written instructions at an appropriate reading level and in their preferred language that specify the weekly dosing schedule, emphasize the danger with taking extra doses, and warn patients to avoid taking extra doses for symptom control.					
6	Patients who are discharged on methotrexate are asked to repeat back the instructions to validate understanding of the weekly dosing schedule and toxicities of the medication if taken more frequently than prescribed.					
7	A healthcare professional verifies all printed medication lists and discharge instructions to ensure they indicate the correct dosage regimen for methotrexate prior to providing them to the patient.					