

Chemotherapy and Pharmacy Advisory Service (CPAS)

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The Chemotherapy and Pharmacy Advisory Service (CPAS) is a multi-disciplinary national team of pharmacists, research nurses and oncologists. It was set up by the NCRN to advise Chief Investigators, Clinical Trials Units and Clinical Studies Groups on the chemotherapy and pharmacy content of their protocols. (The team was formerly known as the Oncology, Pharmacy and Chemotherapy Standardisation Committee, or the OPCSC.) CPAS offers a protocol review service which is now mandatory for all new drug trials approval by the Clinical Trials Awards and Advisory Committee (CTAAC) and the NIHR Health Technology Assessment programme (HTA). Other protocols can be submitted for review on a voluntary basis.

The aim of the service is to help trials across the whole of the NCRN portfolio run as smoothly and quickly as possible, and to improve quality of care and management of risks in prescribing, preparing and administering chemotherapy. A review of current trials has raised a number of issues which have made trials difficult to implement at the local level and which have led to delays and problems in areas such as:

- dose adjustments
- dose capping
- missing pharmacy information
- supply of drugs
- safe administration of chemotherapy

The Chemotherapy and Pharmacy Advisory Service aims to help investigators through these problems, achieving some consistency across the NCRN. Investigators who have protocols reviewed in this way have reported that it was a helpful and constructive process which reduced the number of protocol amendments that were required during the trial.

CPAS has produced a number of guidance documents to advise investigators on the drug content and details of their protocols, and to assist the review process. They are available to download below:

[Frequently Asked Questions \(Word\)](#)

[Checklist used by CPAS members when reviewing a protocol \(Word\)](#)

[Standard Protocol Template \(Word\)](#)

[Standard Protocol Template \(PDF\)](#)

[Protocol Reviews: Summary of Findings \(Word\)](#)

[Pharmacy Manual Template \(Word\) \(PDF\)](#)

[List of protocols reviewed by CPAS to date \(Excel\)](#)

[Presentation on CPAS, prepared by Stephen Kelly](#)

[COMING SOON: Validated Excel Spreadsheet for Carboplatin Dosing using the Wright Formula](#)

If you have any comments, questions or feedback, please email cpas@ncrn.org.uk For further information, or to submit a protocol for review, please contact Liz Gardner, NCRN Clinical Trials Liaison Officer, on 0113 3438942 or email l.gardner@ncrn.org.uk **DISCLAIMER:** Please note that CPAS is an advisory group only. The information on this site is provided as guidance only, and has no legal or official standing. The requirements of the law vary from country to country and depending on specific circumstances, with a corresponding effect on how information and guidance should be applied. Information and guidance found here should not be used as a substitute for appropriate advice from the relevant authorities.

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