Cancer

Fast Facts:
- Cancer is a disease that causes cells to grow out of control.
- Cancer is treated with drugs known as “chemotherapy” (also called “chemo”).
- Oral chemo is taken by mouth instead of injection or infusion

What Causes Cancer?
- Cancer cells develop when human cells change and grow out of control
- There are many possible causes of cancer, some of which include:
  - Genes
  - Tobacco use
  - Diet
  - Being exposed to the sun/radiation

How is Cancer Diagnosed?
- Cancer may be diagnosed with imaging, and lab tests or tumor samples.
- Sometimes all or part of a tumor needs to be removed through surgery to diagnose cancer.

How is Cancer Treated?
- Chemo can be used to help prevent the spread of cancer.
- Chemo can also slow the growth of cancer, or even cure it.
- There are a few different types of chemo:
  - Targeted chemo which damages cancer cells more than normal cells
  - Chemo that blocks the action of hormones
  - Chemo that works with the patient’s own immune system to destroy cancer cells

What are the Side Effects of Chemo?
- The side effects that can happen vary based on the type of chemo you are using.
- Ask your pharmacist, doctor, or nurse about what side effects you may expect.

Can I take Other Medications while on Chemo?
- Chemo can interact with other medications. Medications include ones obtained through prescription and over the counter. Herbals and supplements may also interact with chemo.
- Inform your doctor or pharmacist or of ALL medications, herbals or supplements that you taking or plan on taking.

Points to Remember:
- An accurate medication list helps us manage your care.

For Additional Information:
- American Cancer Society – www.cancer.org
- Chemocare – www.chemocare.com
• National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) – www.nccn.org/patients