

## Regimen Reference Order

### H&N – cetuximab (weekly) with concurrent radiation

ARIA: H&N – [cetuximab]

**Planned Course:** Every 7 days for 8 doses with concurrent radiation (to start 7 days prior to the initiation of radiation)

**Indication for Use:** Squamous Cell Cancer of Head and Neck

**CVAD:** At Provider's Discretion

**Proceed with treatment if:**

***Blood work at provider's discretion: not required to proceed with treatment***

#### SEQUENCE OF MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION

##### Pre-treatment Requirements

Drug	Dose	CCMB Administration Guideline
Not Applicable		

#### Treatment Regimen – H&N – cetuximab (weekly) with concurrent radiation

Establish primary solution 500 mL of: normal saline

Drug	Dose	CCMB Administration Guideline
<b>Dose 1</b>		
<b>(Note: starts 7 days prior to the initiation of radiation)</b>		
dexamethasone	8 mg	IV in normal saline 50 mL over 15 minutes
diphenhydrAMINE	50 mg	IV in normal saline 50 mL over 15 minutes
<b>Wait 30 minutes after completion of IV pre-medications before starting cetuximab</b>		
cetuximab	400 mg/m <sup>2</sup> Loading Dose	IV over 2 hours (administered undiluted) Doses greater than 1200 mg must be administered over 2.5 hours Use 0.2 or 0.22 micron filter <i>*Alert: Pharmacy to ensure final volume on label</i> <i>*Nursing Alert: IV tubing is primed with cetuximab</i>
<b>Dose 2</b>		
dexamethasone	8 mg	IV in normal saline 50 mL over 15 minutes
diphenhydrAMINE	50 mg	IV in normal saline 50 mL over 15 minutes
<b>Wait 30 minutes after completion of IV pre-medications before starting cetuximab</b>		

cetuximab	250 mg/m <sup>2</sup>	IV over 1 hour (administered undiluted) Doses greater than 600 mg must be infused over 2 hours Use 0.2 or 0.22 micron filter <i>*Alert: Pharmacy to ensure final volume on label</i> <i>*Nursing Alert: IV tubing is primed with cetuximab</i>
<b>Doses 3 to 8</b>		
cetirizine	10 mg	Orally 30 minutes prior to cetuximab
dexamethasone	8 mg	IV in normal saline 50 mL over 15 minutes
<b>Wait 30 minutes after completion of IV pre-medications before starting cetuximab</b>		
cetuximab	250 mg/m <sup>2</sup>	IV over 1 hour (administered undiluted) Doses greater than 600 mg must be infused over 2 hours Use 0.2 or 0.22 micron filter <i>*Alert: Pharmacy to ensure final volume on label</i> <i>*Nursing Alert: IV tubing is primed with cetuximab</i>
All doses will be automatically rounded that fall within CCMB Approved Dose Bands. See Dose Banding document for more information		

**In the event of an infusion-related hypersensitivity reaction, refer to the 'Hypersensitivity Reaction Standing Order'**

## REQUIRED MONITORING

### All Doses

- Clinical assessment of cetuximab-related skin toxicity
- No blood work is required to proceed with treatment
- CBC, serum creatinine, urea, liver enzymes, magnesium, calcium and albumin as per Physician Orders

### Doses 1 and 2

- Full vital signs (temperature, heart rate, respiratory rate, blood pressure and O<sub>2</sub> saturation) at baseline, after one-hour observation and as clinically indicated
- Observe patient for 1 hour after cetuximab infusion. Full vital signs prior to discharge

### Dose 3 and Onwards

- Full vital signs (temperature, heart rate, respiratory rate, blood pressure and O<sub>2</sub> saturation) at baseline and as clinically indicated
- For patients with no prior reactions to cetuximab, no observation period is required after cetuximab administration. Patient can be discharged from treatment room if stable whether they had a reaction or not
- For patients who have had a previous reaction to cetuximab, observe patient for one hour after cetuximab infusion. Full vital signs prior to discharge

### Recommended Support Medications

Drug	Dose	CCMB Administration Guideline
Sunscreen	Minimum SPF 15 (PABA free, zinc oxide or titanium dioxide preferred)	Apply topically a broad-spectrum sunscreen liberally 30 minutes before going outdoors. Reapply every 2 hours and after swimming.
Moisturizing lotion	Fragrance-free	Apply topically to face, hands, feet, neck, back and chest daily in the morning on rising and <b><i>as needed</i></b>
<b><i>In the event of a cetuximab-induced skin rash:</i></b>		
doxycycline	100 mg	Orally twice daily as directed by clinic
hydrocortisone cream	1%	Apply topically daily at bedtime to face, hands, feet, neck, back and chest as directed by clinic

### DISCHARGE INSTRUCTIONS

- Patients should be instructed to contact their cancer team immediately if symptoms of hypersensitivity reactions occur after discharge
- Warn patients of the possibility of a late onset reaction to cetuximab as reactions may occur several hours after infusion or with subsequent infusions
- Instruct patient to use Recommended Support Medications

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- cetuximab can cause hypomagnesemia
- cetuximab causes dermatological and nail changes
- cetuximab can cause interstitial lung disease, pneumonitis and exacerbation of pre-existing fibrotic lung disease
- Administration site restrictions are in place for cetuximab. Dose 1 of cetuximab should only be administered at CCMB MacCharles or Tache in Winnipeg