

# Memorial Health Care System

Chattanooga, Tennessee

## POLICY

Title:

Medication Rounding

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Policy Number:

PHRM-POL

Date Last Revised

Department(s) Affected:

Pharmacy, Nursing

Review Period:

every 3 years

Reviewed  
Initial & Date


Department Supervisor/Committee Approval

Administrative Approval

Medical Director and/or Chief of Staff approval if applicable

**Outcome:** To provide a safe process for rounding dosages on medication vials to avoid waste and reduce medication costs.

**Policy:** For expensive, injectable drug vials the dose dispensed will be rounded DOWN to the nearest vial size if the rounded dose will be within 5% of the prescribed dose. For Monoclonal Antibodies the dose will be rounded to the nearest 100 mg vial. For Immune Globulin (IVIG) the dose will be rounded to the nearest 5 gm size. The difference between the ordered and rounded dose will be insignificant to the outcome.

1. Chemotherapy drugs:  
e.g. Docetaxel (Taxotere®) 20 mg, 80 mg vials  
Taxotere® 145 mg prescribed : round to 140 mg ( 1 x 80 mg & 3 x 20 mg vials)  
Dose difference is 3.4%. Save 1 x 20 mg vial per cycle.  
Cost savings per cycle = \$ 372.08
2. Infliximab (Remicade®) 100 mg vial  
e.g. Remicade written as 5 mg/kg for 45 kg patient.  
Calculated dose = 230 mg; round to 200 mg ( 2 x 100 mg vial) – nearest 100 mg  
Cost savings per dose = \$ 602.81
3. Rituximab (Rituxan®) 100 mg, 500 mg vials  
Rituxan 525 mg prescribed; round to 500 mg vial  
Dose difference is 4.8%. Save 1 x 100 mg vial per cycle.  
Cost savings per cycle = \$ 532.00
4. Immune Globulin (IVIG) 5 gm, 10 gm, 20 gm vials (liquid)  
5 gm vial cost \$ 350 , 10 gm vial cost \$ 700, 20 gm vial cost \$ 1400  
Dose 64 gm = 3 x 20 gm vials + 1 x 5 gm vial = \$ 4550  
Dose 41.5 gm = 2 x 20 gm vials = \$4,800 \*  
\* Cost savings per dose = \$ 350

Prescribers may choose not to have the dose rounded by specifying “Do not round” or other similar language.