

Management of Lower Gastro-intestinal Disease (2007)

CPLD reviews its distance learning programmes every twelve months to ensure currency. This update has been produced by an expert and should be read in conjunction with the Management of Lower Gastro-intestinal Disease (2007) distance learning course. Where updated information has been provided, we have indicated the relevant section and page number in Management of Lower Gastro-intestinal Disease (2007) for your reference. All updated information is available to download from the CPLD website www.nicpld.org

Pharmacists are reminded that information contained in this addendum is correct at the time of publication (October 2008) but it is their responsibility to keep up-to-date with any changes in practice.

Section 2 – Colorectal Carcinoma

P39 - Staging and survival: Staging is important because treatment is often based on the stage of a cancer. The newer TNM Staging system is now used in preference to the older Duke's and Astler-Coller staging systems to classify colorectal cancer. The TNM (Tumour / Node / Metastases) Staging system describes the size of a primary tumour (T), whether any lymph nodes contain cancer cells (N) and whether the cancer has spread to another part of the body (M), as shown in the table below.

TNM Staging system

Stage of colorectal cancer	Definition of stage
<i>Primary Tumour (T)</i>	
T1	Cancer has reached the innermost layers of the colon or rectum wall
T2	Cancer has spread into the muscle layer of colon or rectum wall
T3	Cancer has spread beyond the muscle layer of colon or rectum wall
T4	Cancer invades through the serosal surface or directly invades other organs
<i>Regional lymph nodes (N)</i>	
NX	Presence of cancer in lymph nodes cannot be assessed
NO	Cancer has not spread to the nearest lymph nodes
N1	Cancer has spread to one, two or three lymph nodes nearby
N2	Cancer has spread to four or more lymph nodes nearby
N3	Tumour in a lymph node, >5cm in largest dimension
<i>Distant metastasis (M)</i>	
MX	Presence of distant metastasis cannot be assessed
M0	No distant metastasis
M1	Distant metastasis. This may mean that the cancer has spread to another part of the body or to another organ, such as the liver

Section 6 – Stoma Care Appliances

P83 - Belts: It is not recommended to have a hole made in the stoma support and hernia belt as this can exacerbate the problem.

P83 - Clips: Most patients using drainable bags prefer Velcro closure instead of firm rigid plastic clips or soft wire tie closures.

P84 - Plasters: Plasters are now known as security frames or flange extenders.