Hydroxyurea ordering on Heme-Onc

For our patients with sickle cell being admitted, residents can now order hydroxyurea on admission with other home medicines. Hydroxyurea ordering had been restricted in the past because of its “chemotherapy” label.  We had been trying to get his policy changed because unfortunately our patients often miss doses of hydroxyurea when not ordered with other home meds on admission and the policy wrongly stigmatizes this medicine as dangerous.

A few things:

1. Like all home meds, hydroxyurea dose should be verified by family report and medical documentation (clinic note or prescription bottle).

2. We only give 500 mg tabs of hydroxyurea so 1 tab = 500 mg.  We only give 100 mg/ml solution so 2 ml = 200 mg.

3. CBC hold parameters for hydroxyurea are attached and will come up when resident attempts to place order.

4. Like other meds, if different doses are given different days (M-F one dose, S-S different dose) then two different orders need to be entered in Cerner.

5. If dose is unclear or resident has any concerns/questions about hydroxyurea then he/she should talk to fellow/attending and not order it.

6. Residents should not write outpatient scripts for hydroxyurea (unless specifically asked by attending to write a specific amount) since primary hematologist should be doing this to ensure patient is coming back to clinic appropriately for monitoring.