Improving the Safe Administration of Chemotherapy to Pediatric Patients Through Standardized Pre-Printed Orders

Smith-Morris AD¹, Britton A¹, Lyons B¹, and Mpofu C¹
1) Saskatoon Cancer Centre, Saskatoon, SK  2) College of Pharmacy and Nutrition, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK

Background

Chemotherapy is the primary treatment for childhood cancers but has the potential to cause great harm. Complex study protocols consist of discrete phases that are difficult to navigate, challenging the development of standardized preprinted orders.

At the Saskatchewan Cancer Centre (SCC), hand-written pediatric chemotherapy orders require numerous clarifications between professionals, resulting in workflow interruptions and 'near-misses.' The need for safer administration of chemotherapy was identified.

Objective

We sought to improve the safety of chemotherapy administration through standardized pediatric pre-printed orders.

Design

At the SCC (November 28, 2015 to June 30, 2016) pediatric preprinted orders were developed through an interdisciplinary group. The primary outcome was the percentage of preprinted orders used for pediatric chemotherapy administration.

Results

A total of 143 preprinted orders (61 new and 82 revised) were developed over a seven-month period. At baseline, 24% of total orders used standardized preprints, increasing to 85% (n=11/13) at follow up. (Figure 1)

The number of pharmacist-initiated clarifications decreased. (Figure 2) A convenience sample revealed less than 50% of orders needing clarification through the 120-day follow up (n=6/13, 46%).

Conclusions

Standardized pediatric chemotherapy preprinted orders were successfully implemented. Pharmacist-initiated order clarifications decreased suggesting safer administration of chemotherapy.

References:
3) www.members.childrensoncologygroup.com

Acknowledgments:
Special thank you to the Pediatric Oncology team at the Saskatchewan Cancer Centre and the Royal University Hospital in Saskatoon, SK for your continued contributions to this project.

Further Information:
Amy Smith-Morris
Email: amy.smith@saskcancer.ca