Abstract

Background and Purpose: Hypersensitivity reactions are a known risk for oncology patients receiving intravenous therapy. Proper assessment and management are key responsibilities of health care providers caring for oncology patients; however, there are significant knowledge gaps and practice variations amongst providers and health organizations. There remain no standard published guidelines for hypersensitivity management to guide clinical decision making.

Objectives: The purpose of this project was to evaluate application of a comprehensive symptom-based order set and practice guideline in improving hypersensitivity management for adult oncology patients in an ambulatory infusion setting.

Methods: This quality improvement project used a pre- and post- test design in evaluating staff knowledge on hypersensitivity management (N=34), retrospective chart reviews to analyze hypersensitivity occurrence and reversal medication administration (N=84), and a post-survey to measure staff satisfaction (N=17).

Findings: Pre and post education scores showed statistically significant improvement in provider hypersensitivity knowledge from 65.6% pre-education to 88.24% post education (p<0.004). After the educational intervention, time to reversal medication administration statistically and clinically improved for Famotidine (p<0.038) and Corticosteroid (p<0.039) administration as well as time to symptom resolution (p<0.023). Staff expressed increased ability and confidence in hypersensitivity care upon project completion.

Keywords: hypersensitivity, oncology, outpatient, protocol, reaction