

Abstract

Background and Purpose: Oral chemotherapy drug development and use has increased and evidence in literature suggests variability in practice nationally. Thus, there is a need for continuous review of the process of oral chemotherapy administration that focuses on improving patient safety and outcomes. This quality improvement project sought out to assess provider/staff general knowledge on oral chemotherapy and national safety standards and to evaluate the implementation and ease of use of an electronic medical record (EMR) integrated chemotherapy documentation template geared towards improving compliance with national chemotherapy administration standards.

Method: This project utilized a pretest-posttest design comparing provider and staff knowledge as well as the intervention of a chemotherapy documentation template to assess compliance with national chemotherapy administration safety standards in an academic medical center. A questionnaire was used to evaluate knowledge gained with a virtual educational session provided to participants prior to taking the post-test. Through chart review, 24 national safety standards relevant to oral chemotherapy administration was used to assess compliance prior to and following introduction of the intervention.

Results: There was a total of 65 providers (over 60% being nurse practitioners) and staff that participated in the pre-test and post-test. There was a statistical significance in knowledge gained from pre-test to post-test (p value of <0.001). Additionally, from the 88 charts reviewed, there was a statistical improvement in compliance with national safety standards (p value of <0.001). The participants (n=29) also scored the documentation template as above average indicating overall ease of use and feasibility for continued use.

Conclusions: The use of oral chemotherapy has become more prominent in oncology practices. More awareness and utilization of established national guidelines are critical to address the disparities in practice. Additionally, having a standardized workflow that prompts documentation and discussion of the national standards essential to quality and safe practice.

Keywords: antineoplastic agents, cancer chemotherapy drugs, antitumor agents, oral administration, national guidelines