



Improving Adherence to Safe Handling of Oral Hazardous Drugs and Contaminated Wastes

Eliane Vieira, BSN, RN-BC, OCN, Grace Allen, MSN, RN, OCN, Sadeeka Al-Majid, PhD, RN.,
Amelie Auclerc, BSN, RN, OCN, Christine Cleverly, ADN, RN, OCN, Thiem Dam, BSN, RN, Pamela Cook, ADN, RN, OCN, Rebecca Kelleher, BSN, RN

MemorialCare Orange Coast Medical Center, Fountain Valley, California

Background

- Healthcare workers exposed to hazardous drugs are at increased risk for adverse reactions.
- The Oncology Nursing Society's (ONS) guidelines recommend using personal protective equipment (PPE) when administering chemotherapy and hazardous drugs (HD) and when disposing of wastes from patients receiving these drugs.
- Registered nurses (RNs) working on the Inpatient Oncology Unit in our Magnet-designated community hospital followed guidelines for administering intravenous (IV) but not oral chemotherapy and other hazardous drugs. Additionally, registered nurses and patient care assistants (PCAs) did not use PPE when disposing of hazardous wastes.

Purpose and Objectives

- To increase staff knowledge of and adherence to ONS guidelines related to safe handling of chemotherapy and other hazardous drugs and contaminated waste through an evidence-based educational intervention.

Target Population

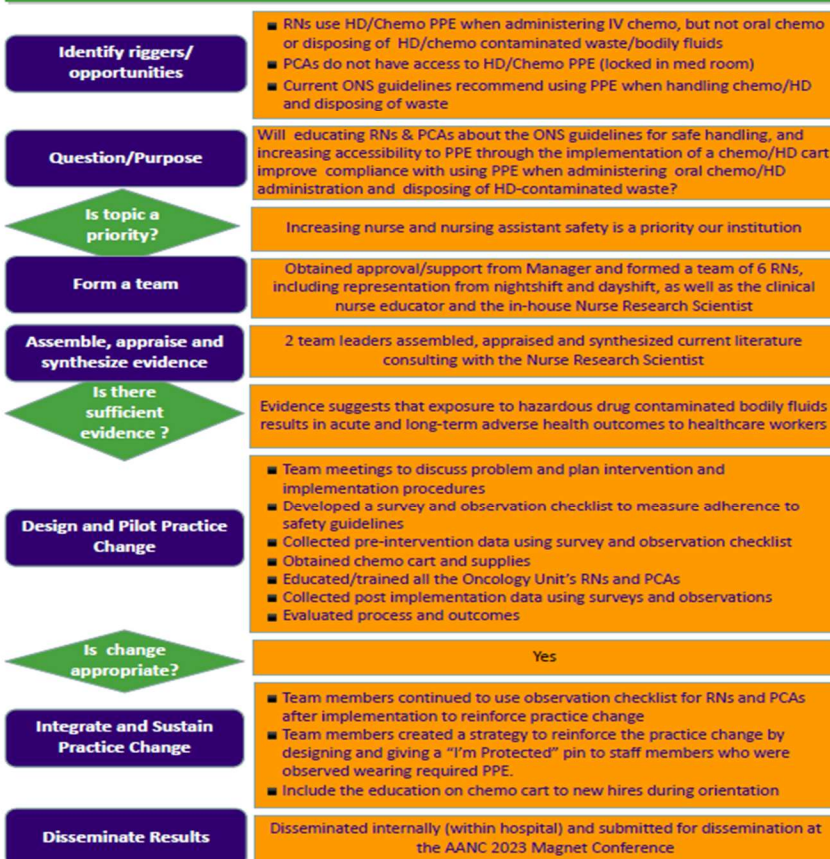
- Registered nurses and Patient Care Assistants working on the Oncology Unit at our Magnet-Designated Community Hospital



Measurements

- Adherence to safe handling guidelines was measured before and after the educational and Chemo Cart intervention
- Objectively using an observation check list
- Subjectively, using a 5-item survey adopted from the Hospital Safety Climate Scale (Gershon et al, 2000).

Iowa Model of Evidence-Based Practice Used as a Guide



Data Analysis

- We compared self-reported and observed adherence to safe handling guidelines for oral administration of hazardous drugs and disposal of contaminated wastes.
- All comparisons were performed using independent t-tests with Bonferroni correction; significance level set at $P < 0.05$.

Results

Figure 1. Self-Reported Adherence to Safety Protocols for Administering Oral Chemotherapeutic Agents and Waste Disposal

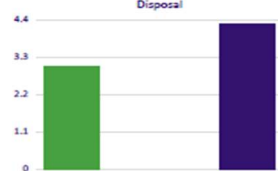


Figure 2. Observed Pre-intervention and Post Intervention Adherence to Safety Protocol during Administration of Oral Chemotherapy



Figure 3. Observed Pre-intervention and Post Intervention Adherence to Safety Protocol during Disposing off Contaminated Waste



Implications for Practice

Increasing awareness of nurses and PCA about guidelines related to safe handling of chemotherapy/HD along with increasing accessibility to PPE increased adherence to safety guidelines.