

Corporate Scholarship Presentations

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Provision of Oncology Pharmacy Service at Princess Margaret Hospital

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Background

In recent years, there has been a continuous growth of cancer patients, as well as increasing complexity of chemotherapy and targeted therapy treatment. In order to develop future clinical pharmacy leaders in oncology and to enhance quality and safety of oncology pharmacy service, two pharmacists from the Hospital Authority (HA) hospitals were selected by the Overseas Corporate Scholarship Panel in 2010 to attend a three-month clinical oncology attachment at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) sponsored by the Overseas Corporate Scholarship Programme.

Key Training Activities

During the clinical attachment at the UIC, the selected scholars gained a wide spectrum of exposure in overall pharmacotherapy management of cancer patients, including development of clinical protocols, screening of chemotherapy orders, compilation of anti-emetic regimen, patient counseling, medication reconciliation, etc. In addition, the training also allowed the scholars to gain insights of clinical practice and contributions made by specialist oncology pharmacists in the United States.

Outcome and Experience Sharing

In the Oncology Pharmacy Clinic, patients would be counseled by pharmacists before start of their chemotherapy treatment. The Oncology Pharmacist Clinic also provides a comprehensive medication management service and the chemotherapy prescriptions are also screened at the oncology pharmacist clinic. When patients are admitted, the Oncology Ward Pharmacists would compile a medication history and screen for drug allergies and drug interactions.

The Pharmacist-Herceptin-Clinic is designed to look after breast cancer patients receiving herceptin therapy. The pharmacists would assess this group of patients according to a pre-set protocol. For patient who meets the criteria, pharmacists would endorse the treatment and the patient can continue with the herceptin therapy.

Over 85% of the patients recognised and rated the oncology pharmacy service positively through a five-question survey. They reflected that pharmacist at clinic was helpful. They would like to talk to pharmacist during chemotherapy visits. They also agreed that pharmacists were able to give them a better understanding of chemotherapy, the pre-medications prescribed and help them to cope with side effects.