Chemotherapy administration is a high risk nursing procedure

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Introduction
The Chemotherapy Administration is a high risk nursing procedure in Haematology unit of hospital. There are around 5 to 8 patients receiving intravenous chemotherapy in Haematology in-patient unit of united Christian Hospital everyday. Around 35% staff were completed the Haematology nursing course in the unit and others receiving one day in-house training on Haematology nursing, including the knowledge and technique on chemotherapy administration. To ensure the quality and standard on chemotherapy handling is important to maintain both patient and staff safety.

Objectives
(1) To evaluate the nurses’ compliance on intravenous chemotherapy administration procedure. (2) Review current practice and provide feedbacks and recommendations for continuous quality improvement.

Methodology
Assessment tool The intravenous chemotherapy administration audit form is not available in Hospital Authority. The members of Haematology workgroup come from 7 clusters developed an audit form based on the “COC(N) Nursing standards for patient care – Parenteral Cytotoxic Drug Administration (S8.2, 2012)” and “HAHO Safety Solution on High Risk Medication (2010)”. We based on the audit form to evaluate the nursing practice on intravenous chemotherapy administration in our unit. Data collection Data were collected through a number of means including observation of practice, checking of medical records and interview with nurses.

Result
A total 21 audit forms were performed in our Haematology in-patient unit from 15/6/2014 to 15/1/2015. The enrolled nurses and nurses with pregnancy were excluded. The overall compliance rate was 98.6%. The compliance rates of all critical
items were 100%. The compliance rate of standard criteria “Explain chemotherapy related precautions to patient” and “wash hands before chemotherapy administration” was 95.2% and 71.4% only. It concluded that the nurses’ compliance on the nursing standard is highly appreciated. However, it needs to promote the hand hygiene when care the patient and the hand hygiene audit performed monthly by designated nurse. In addition, we developed the information pamphlet of cytotoxic drugs and related precautions of chemotherapy. It aims to enhance the staff’s knowledge and able to provide suitable health education to patients when they receive chemotherapy.