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Evaluation of the Oncology Pharmacist Herceptin Clinic for Breast Cancer patients at Princess Margaret Hospital

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Introduction

A pilot Oncology Pharmacist Herceptin Clinic for Breast Cancer patients was launched in the Oncology Department at Princess Margaret Hospital in December 2012. The oncology pharmacists act under a scope of practice, which was endorsed by a supervising oncologist. This scope allows the pharmacists to assess patients actively receiving therapy, determine whether they meet the criteria for the continuation of Herceptin Therapy as part of their adjuvant cancer treatment, reorder Herceptin therapy, and order the necessary laboratory examinations. The pharmacist also helps maintain the patient record and documents interventions of Drug related problems (DRP), and document treatment progress for each patient.

Objectives

The aim of the study was to establish the safety and patient acceptance of the Pharmacist Herceptin Clinic by quantifying the DRPs and by evaluation of patient acceptance of the service.

Methodology

The study was a retrospective descriptive analysis of Herceptin related DRPs documented by the Oncology Pharmacist for Breast Cancer patients under the care of the Pharmacist Herceptin Clinic at Princess Margaret Hospital. DRPs were documented and quantified. Patient surveys were conducted and the survey results were documented and categorized.

Result

A total of 116 Herceptin clinic episodes were conducted by the Oncology Pharmacists between December 2012 and February 2013. There was no Herceptin related DRPs identified for Breast Cancer patients attending the Pharmacist Herceptin Clinic. Feedback from the patient surveys showed 90.9% of patients were satisfied with the

service of the Pharmacist Herceptin Clinic, 72.7% of patients were satisfied with the waiting time and 86.4% of patients considered the duration of Pharmacist Herceptin Clinic consultation being optimal. Given zero DRPs encountered, this is seen as a first step in establishing the safety of this pilot clinic service arrangement for Breast Cancer patients. The results from the patient survey conducted were encouraging and we can conclude that this new clinic service is well accepted by our Breast Cancer patients. Oncology Clinical pharmacists play a real role in providing direct patient care and are a vital part of the solution to caring for the increasing volume of oncology patients.