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Medication Safety Enhancement Program on Oral Anticancer Drug by Using the Reference Guide in a Small Team Approach

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Introduction

Clinical Oncology Department (COD) is a high risk area for medication safety, there are around 2,600 new cases and 42,000 outpatient attendances per year. Patients admit to oncology ward and day center for chemotherapy treatment which has around 13,000 attendances per year. Cytotoxic drugs are known to be hazardous to both patients and staff. There are specific requirements for safe monitoring of patients and handling procedures by nurses for parenteral chemotherapy treatment. However, no such guidelines on oral chemotherapy treatment that associated with a similar spectrum and severity of adverse effects.

Objectives

To ensure medication safety by enhancing nurses knowledge on oral cytotoxic drug.

Methodology

1. Formation of a 'medication safety' small team 2. Prepare an oral cytotoxic drug reference guide 3. Evaluate the nurses' knowledge pre and post one month before and after the implementation of the guidelines.

Result

In early 2015, small team of 'medication safety' was formed. Team head was appointed and members were recruited (6-7) on a voluntary basis. We have autonomy to brainstorm improvement projects After review, we note that there are increasing trend of about 20-25% cancer treatment using oral cytotoxic drugs despite the using of traditionally parenteral type where nurses are well trained for administration. The related reference guide was not presence in the department Our team worked on the preparation the oral cytotoxic drug reference guide and was ready in November 2015. The pre and post-test were carried out in October 2015 and December 2015 respectively. Same ten multiple choice questions were distributed to same group of nurses before and afterward. Questions include actions, adverse effects, nursing care and safe handling of oral anticancer agents. A total of 32 nurses at COD were participated in these tests. Pre-test mean score was 7.56 out of

10, and post-test mean score was higher of 9.84 out of 10, that mean an increase of 30.16% of scores. Conclusion: Medication safety on oral anticancer drug could be enhanced by increased the nurses' knowledge by the reference guide.