Specialty Pharmacist Led Nursing Education Series

Michael Zumbo, PharmD, CSP1, Bisni Narayanan PharmD M5, Brooke Schramek MSN, RN2, Terri Sue Rubino PharmD, CSP1, Vinay Sawant RPH, MPH, MBA1, Michele Ricardi PharmD, BCPS2,

1Yale New Haven Health, Department of Pharmacy, New Haven, CT; 2YNHH Department of Nursing- Smilow Cancer Hospital

Background

• Outpatient Pharmacy Services (OPS) is a specialty pharmacy at Yale New Haven Health which includes a health system cancer center.
• The tremendous growth in targeted oral oncolytic agents has made education on these agents necessary.
• Pharmacist have been shown to have an impact on the education of hematology/oncology nurses.1
• OPS specialty pharmacists have a unique advantage to deliver oral oncolytic education; they have knowledge of new agents on the market, are integrated into the health system, and work closely with the nurses at the cancer center.
• Upon identifying an educational gap on new oral oncology medications among oncology nurses, an educational series was created.

Methods

A multidisciplinary team consisting of specialty pharmacists and a nurse manager from a health system cancer center convened, discussed and charted expectations for the educational series.

At 10 months, an electronic survey was sent out to the attendees (both nurse and pharmacist) of the education series. An electronic survey was sent out to the attendees (both nurses and pharmacists) in May 2022 and had 32 respondents.

To create, implement, and evaluate a pilot education series for the outpatient oncology practice nurses on oral oncology medications.

To the majority of participants preferred education on oncolytic medications with 50% preferring a review of oral oncology therapeutic classes and 38% preferring education on new oral oncolytics.

To for future educational topics, the majority of participants preferred education on oncolytic medications.

Outpatient pharmacy staff was shown a unique advantage to deliver oral chemotherapy, dissolving & crushing oral medications (Her2 agents, CLL agents, Braf+ melanoma, etc)

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Discussion

• The initial education session was given on August 2021 and subsequent education sessions were carried out from September 2021 to May 2022 with the exception of January 2022.
• Upon request, in February 2022 the invitation to the education series was extended to all cancer center RNs and clinical pharmacists.
• There was an increase in attendance from 20 attendees in August 2021 to 44 attendees in May 2022.
• Topics presented included an overview of the oral oncolytic fulfillment process and education on new oral oncolytic medications.
• An electronic survey was sent out to the attendees (both nurses and pharmacists) in May 2022 and had 32 respondents.

Conclusions

A successful pilot nursing educational series was created and implemented at a large health system with an integrated specialty pharmacy. Specialty pharmacists are uniquely positioned to close the educational gap among nursing and pharmacy staff.

Future Directions

These results will guide the development of an educational program to be offered to all cancer center staff.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Number of respondents (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New oral oncolytics</td>
<td>15 (75%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patients received information from the RN education session in your practice?</td>
<td>Very satisfied 36 (100%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Are you dissatisfied with the Smilow RN/OPS pharmacist nursing education series?</td>
<td>Very satisfied 36 (100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How satisfied are you with the Smilow RN/OPS pharmacist nursing education series?</td>
<td>Very satisfied 36 (100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How likely are you to use the information from the RN education series in your practice?</td>
<td>Very likely 33 (83.3%)</td>
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Notes:


