

The expanding roles of a Specialist Pharmacy Technician within Oncology

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Introduction

The role of Hospital Pharmacy Technicians has evolved over the past few years.

The NHS plan, "Pharmacy in the future" and "A spoonful of sugar" all describe the benefits of extending technicians roles.

Background

- Cancer is the most common cause of death in the UK after heart disease.
- More than 1 in 3 people will develop cancer at some stage in their lives.
- 1 in 4 will die of their disease.



Aim

‘To provide a modern, patient focused, clinical and cost effective pharmaceutical service’

The present role

- In-patient dispensing
- Out-patient dispensing - clinics
- Aseptic dispensing - Chemotherapy, C.I.V.A.S, T.P.N & P.C.A.S
- Medicines Management – assessing Patients Own Drugs (PODs), Patient counselling, Drug Histories, cost saving and recycling

The proposed roles

- Computers & Chemotherapy
- Finance
- Clinical Trials
- Homecare Services
- Counselling
- Aseptic dispensing
- Drug History taking



Computers & Chemotherapy

- Computer generated chemotherapy prescriptions
- Electronic data transmission
 - Ward based work
 - Chemotherapy charts
 - Aseptic worksheets
- Drug History documentation
- Electronic Medical Notes
 - communication within MDT
- Pharmacist liaison / handover

Finance

- Cost effective prescribing
 - Supportive medicines
 - use & supply
 - PODs – rationalise dispensing
 - Network / Trust formulary
- Nurse awareness
- Stock list review & policing
- Controlled drug wastage

Clinical Trials

- Expanding area within oncology practice
- Specialist roles
- GCP (Good Clinical Practice) training
- Maintenance of trial portfolio
 - Stock control
 - Dispensing procedures
 - Monitoring visits
- Dispensing of gene therapy / phase I



Homecare Services

- Improve patient experience
- Target patients
 - Stable treatment / disease
 - Long term therapy
 - Requiring minimal monitoring
- Oral agents (Glivec)
- IV therapy (Herceptin)
- Invoice matching

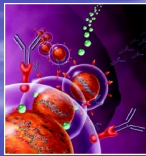
Counselling

- Provide valuable information
- Educate patients on the use and potential misuse of oral chemotherapy
- Day-case patients
- Ward patients
- Support patients and their families throughout therapy
- Development of PIL's



Aseptic Dispensing

- Workload increasing
- Provides the technician with:
 - 360° role in patient care
 - Broadens knowledge & skills
- Worksheet development
- Trial dispensing
- Pre-planning clinics



Drug Histories

- GP - Regular medication
- Pharmaceutical Care Plan
- Identify potential contra-indications or interactions with the chemotherapy regimen
- Rationalise dispensing & prescribing
- Herbal remedies
- Side-effects or problems with chemotherapy



Conclusion

- Oncology pharmacy has come a long way in the last 10 years and will continue to change
- Embrace new challenges
- Develop new roles & responsibilities
- Specialist approach
- Improve job satisfaction
- Key member of MDT
- New Building = New Service = New Start

The New Oncology Wing at St James's Hospital, Leeds

