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# Implementation of a Chemotherapy Guideline: A Quality Improvement Project to Standardize the Chemotherapy Delivery Process

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## Purpose

Adjusting chemotherapy rates is one gap in chemotherapy practice that evokes inconsistency. The purpose of this project was to implement a standardized guideline for staff to utilize in adjusting rates of chemotherapy medications.

## Synthesis of Evidence

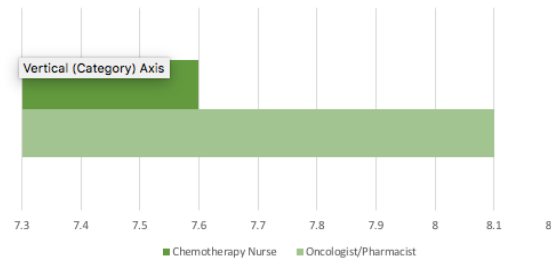
- Currently, no formal document or tool exists for chemotherapy-trained RNs to follow in rate adjustments of chemotherapy.
- Timing of certain chemotherapy medications are flexible and adjusting rates does not affect treatment efficacy.

## Methods

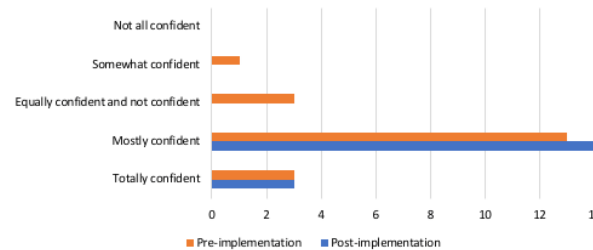
- Assemble interprofessional team.
- Develop guideline with adjusted timeframes based on evidence-based research and expert opinion.
- Disseminate education to all chemotherapy-trained RNs, oncologists, and pharmacists.
- Measure staff's perception of guideline, nursing confidence, and reducing the number of interruptions.

## Results

On a scale of 1-10, how inclined are you to continue to use the guideline? (1-never to use, 10-always will use)



How confident are you in the entire chemotherapy delivery process?



- Following eight weeks of implementation of the standardized guideline in practice, post-surveys were released.
- On a scale from 1-10, chemotherapy-trained RNs' ( $n=17$ ) responses averaged 7.6 to continue to use the guideline. The oncologist and pharmacist stakeholder group ( $n=3$ ) averaged 8.1.
- Post-assessment data demonstrated that 100% ( $n=17$ ) of chemotherapy nurses felt mostly confident or totally confident in the entire chemotherapy delivery process compared to 80% ( $n=20$ ) responding as mostly confident or totally confident in the pre-assessment survey.

## Conclusions/ Implications

- The design of a standardized guideline yielded positive results from stakeholders, including improving nursing confidence.
- Standardization of chemotherapy administration holds promise however, future efforts in its implementation require an increase in survey response rate.
- Reassess best practices and evidence-based knowledge and apply to the guideline as these will continue to develop.

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