

ASSESSMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A TOOL TO MONITOR PATIENT ADHERENCE TO ORAL CHEMOTHERAPY.

Marianne Carter, Erica Hochard, Jodie Barr, Christina Lawrenz, Christine Lichauer, Amanda Walters; LMH Health, 325 Maine St, Lawrence, KS 66044. marianne.carter@lmh.org

Adherence assessment and monitoring is an essential part of medication therapy and is especially important in an oncology setting as decreased adherence can affect disease free and overall survival. The Association for Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Quality Oncology Practice Initiative (QOPI) recommends an oral chemotherapy monitoring protocol that both “outlines the procedure to assess patients’ ability to adhere to chemotherapy that is administered outside of the health care setting” and “requires assessment of each patient’s chemotherapy adherence at defined clinically meaningful intervals to address any issues.”

This project aims to identify patients receiving oral chemotherapy prescribed by an LMH Health oncologist and prospectively monitor adherence, defined as number of doses taken out of number of doses prescribed. Patients will be assessed via phone by a pharmacist using a standardized script and questionnaire to quantify adherence. If a patient is unavailable, the pharmacist will leave a generic voicemail.

The primary outcome is adherence to oral chemotherapy. Secondary outcomes include comparison of adherence among different chemotherapy regimens, adherence methods and tools used by patients at home, and reason for discontinuing chemotherapy, if applicable. Of 101 patients taking oral chemotherapy during the study period of March and April 2021, 74 patients received phone calls. Of 43 completed adherence monitoring calls, the overall adherence rate was 97.7%. Patients taking palbociclib had the lowest rate of adherence (90.6%). A variety of adherence methods were identified, including alarms, calendars, and pill boxes. The overall adherence rate bolsters pharmacist involvement in oral chemotherapy prescribing, assessment, education, and monitoring.