PHARMACEUTICAL CARE ISSUES AT A PAEDIATRIC ONCOLOGY WARD: A SNAPSHOT

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INTRODUCTION

Paediatric oncology patients are a high-risk patient population due to complex pharmaceutical care needs. The input of a ward-based clinical pharmacist optimises the holistic interdisciplinary service offered to this patient cohort and their carers.

AIMS

To analyse pharmaceutical care issues identified at the Paediatric-Adolescent Cancer Ward (PAW) at Sir Anthony Mamo Oncology Centre (SAMOC).

METHOD

• Following ethics approval, the pharmacist attended consultant specialist-led ward rounds where patient files, treatment charts and chemotherapy prescriptions were reviewed to identify pharmaceutical care issues (PCIs).
• The identified PCIs were classified according to a novel PCI classification system based on the Pharmaceutical Care Network Europe (PCNE) Foundation classification for drug related problems version 8 and the DOCUMENT system.1,2
• The PCIs were discussed with the healthcare team, pharmaceutical interventions were proposed and the outcomes were recorded.

RESULTS

• A total of 545 PCIs were identified during 325 pharmaceutical care sessions provided over 8 months.
• Most of the PCIs featured in the counselling [27.0% (n=147)], the drug selection [23.7% (n=129)], the dose selection [19.3% (n=105)] and the monitoring [15.4% (n=84)] categories (Figure 1).
• Out of the total number of pharmaceutical interventions proposed, 95% (n=516) were accepted and implemented by the healthcare professionals or the parents.

CONCLUSION

This study indicates the valued contribution of the pharmacist at a paediatric oncology ward level which focuses on PCIs and patient specific needs. The high acceptance rate for the pharmaceutical interventions put forward by the pharmacist gives a strong indication that the pharmaceutical care model implemented by the pharmacist was of a very high quality.

REFERENCES