Self-Administered Premedication

Improving taxane chemotherapy treatment

Kristin Roper, PhD, RN, AOCNS®, Mary Lou Siefert, DNSc, RN, AOCN®, Frances Fuller, RN, MS, FACHE, OCN®, Diane Lucier, RN, BSN, OCN®, and Donna L. Berry, PhD, RN, AOCN®, FAAN

BACKGROUND: Patients receiving taxane therapy are at risk for hypersensitivity reactions without appropriate premedication management. Patients must understand the importance of taking premedications as prescribed to prevent reactions.

OBJECTIVES: The objectives of this study were to implement and evaluate a multidisciplinary practice protocol comprising of standardized nursing documentation of premedication regimens, teaching, and patient adherence to at-home premedication in an electronic health record (EHR).

METHODS: A new process was developed to provide standardized prescriptions, a personalized instruction sheet for patients and families, and a standardized approach to document adherence and teaching in the EHR. Pre- and post-EHR audits were used twice to evaluate the practice changes.

FINDINGS: The findings of the first audit suggested improvement in all practice changes. After the first audit, reinforcement of the changes occurred within the group and with one-on-one meetings. The goal of 90% adherence was met at the second audit.

KEYWORDS
hypersensitivity reactions; taxanes; premedication; electronic health records

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