Community Dispensing of Oral Medication for Prostate Cancer Patients

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Background

Since the introduction of the oral anti-cancer medications, abiraterone and enzalutamide, for prostate cancer, the workload within the multi-disciplinary urooncology clinic at the Beatson WOSCC has significantly increased.

Patients attend clinic routinely for clinical review prior to receiving prescriptions for these medications. The increasing number of patients receiving these medications puts additional pressure on an already very busy hospital clinic and dispensary. Clinics often run late and the patients have to wait up to two hours for their prescription to be dispensed after their clinic appointment.

Pharmacist Survey Responses Communication between community pharmacy and the acute hospital oncology service is improved I have the appropriate level of competency to provide the service I feel confident that I am supported in case of emergency

Aim:

Improve the service and reduce patient waiting times by moving the dispensing of these medications into community pharmacies.

Methodology

- •A short life working group was established involving members of the hospital and community pharmacy teams
- •A standard operating procedure was developed for community dispensing of abiraterone and enzalutamide
- •14 week pilot for patients living in Glasgow and attending the non-medical prescribers in the clinic
- •Patient nominated community pharmacy given information pack to support implementation
- •Patients and pharmacists were sent a survey to complete at the end of the pilot

Results

28 patients and 27 community pharmacies were recruited during the pilot. Completed forms were collected from 20 patients and 16 pharmacies, which is a response rate of 71% and 59% respectively.

Patient Survey Responses

20%

0%

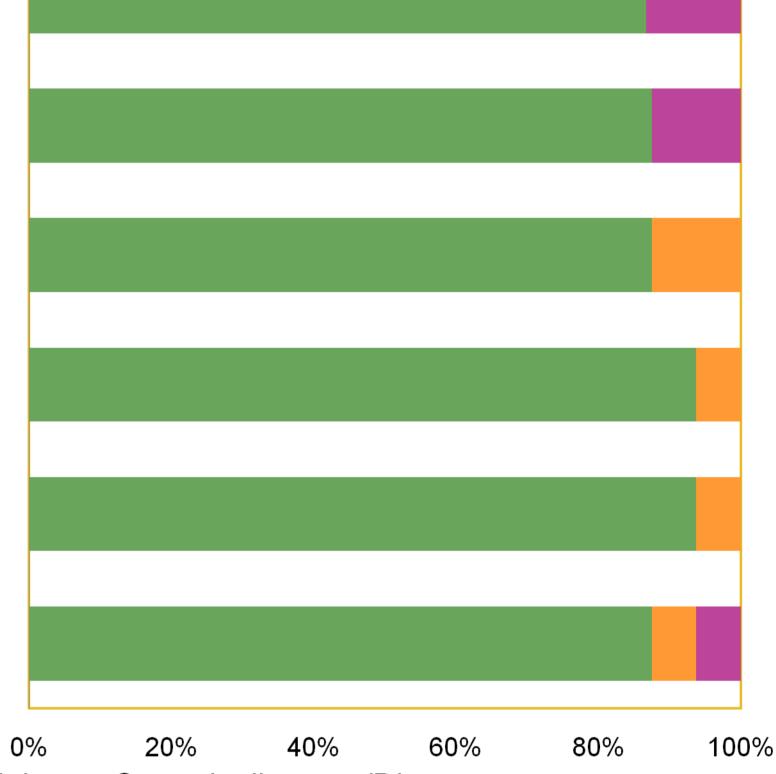
Fair

Overall the quality of care provided by the community pharmacy for the service is high

I feel able to contribute to the provision of high quality care

I know who to contact if I need support

- The service is flexible and responsive to the needs of patients
 - I feel that patients are treated in a safe manner
 - I feel safe delivering treatments in this environment
 - I feel confident appropriate clinical governance procedures are in place
 - Strongly agree/ Agree



NHS

Greater Glasgow

and Clyde

Strongly disagree/Disagree Fair

'the drug is now on the patients' record. If we were not involved in this scheme it would not have been and we would not have known. It allows us to be aware of potential interactions and side effects'

I have confidence and trust in the staff providing my medication

I don't have to wait longer than necessary to recieve my medication

I know who to contact if I need help

The service is flexible and responsive to my needs

I feel safe collecting my medication from my local pharmacy

Strongly Agree / Agree

'the scheme is very good and my time in the hospital is much less'

'getting my prescription dispensed in my own pharmacy means I spend less time in the hospital'

80%

100%

60%

40%

Strongly Disagree/ Disagree



Pharmacists

greater understanding of what it was and how it worked'

'we took time at the

beginning to look up

the drug to give us a

'we now know more about the patient and his disease, if we were not involved in this scheme we would otherwise not have known'

Discussion

•The patient journey has significantly improved as less time is spent within the hospital •It has improved quality and flexibility of services to patients

•Community pharmacies are now aware of what hospital prescribed anti-cancer medications their patients are on and can play a part in managing side effects of these drugs

'the service and communication from the hospital and my pharmacy is great' **Patients** •Hospital dispensary workload has decreased, creating a positive effect on other services provided by the dispensary team

•Community pharmacy Scotland (CPS) has recently agreed that community dispensing of abiraterone and enzalutamide can be rolled out across Scotland using a process that has been collaboratively agreed between NHS Scotland and the CPS network

Conclusions

•Community dispensing of abiraterone and enzalutamide can be carried out safely and effectively improving patient experience and overall care

•Community pharmacy can now play an informed and more important role in the supply and management of care of these patients

•This model can now be considered to move the dispensing of other suitable medications to community pharmacies in Scotland

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