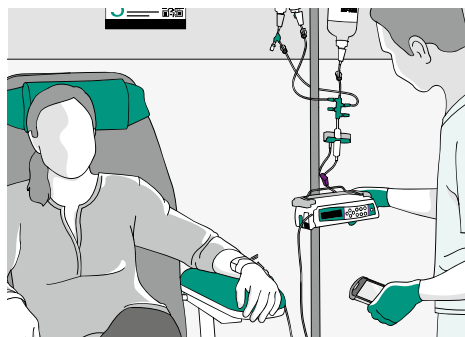


Oncological therapy with OncoSafety Remote Control®

Safe and transparent application of chemotherapeutics

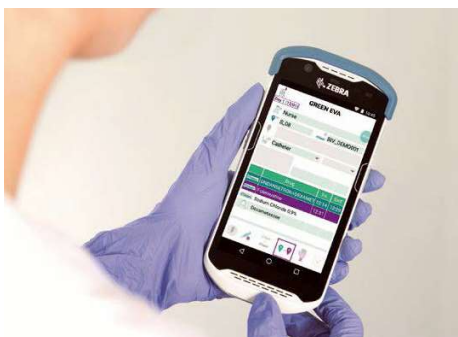


The administration of oncological drugs demands nurses' utmost concentration, but the ever increasing workload means that mistakes can and will nonetheless happen – with potentially severe consequences for the patients. The OncoSafety Remote Control® System standardizes the workflow, improves documentation, allows a simplified analysis of therapy data and establishes an additional safety net for health care staff.

„In my opinion, our old treatment protocol for the administration of chemotherapeutic drugs was just messy”, says Clara Pujol, specialist oncology nurse at the Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau in Barcelona, Spain. The therapy was prepared by the pharmacy, the only control mechanism employed was the patient name, and the instructions regarding the administration were written by hand, “which led to many dose and administration errors”. There was no specific registration protocol for the administration, and if the patient showed side effects, they were only noted down by hand. If a member of the nursing staff did not know the different chemotherapeutic protocols by heart, they had to call the hospital pharmacy, resulting in delays.

Multiple digital security controls

Today, the hospital pharmacy is in charge of the preparation of chemotherapeutics, and thanks to the OncoSafety Remote Control® system, a number of security controls are in place before administration to the patient. What does this look like in daily nursing practice? “The patient is called in and takes a seat in the treatment unit. At this time we confirm that it is the correct patient by checking their name and scanning the code on their bracelet”, explains Clara Pujol. The documentation process is completed by the scanning of both the nurse’s QR code and the barcode of the treatment unit.



After connecting the infusion set, the nurse’s PDA (‘personal digital assistant’, a portable computer) guides them through all the necessary steps; the scanning of the barcode on the infusion set ensures that the correct pump and the closed infusion system is connected with the correct patient and that the correct patient-related data are recorded. The respective patient-individual medication, such as co-medication or chemotherapeutics (oral or peroral) is also scanned before the respective active administration. The type of access (e.g. port or intravenous catheters) is chosen on the PDA, after which the data can be transferred to the infusion pump via confirmation on the PDA. Further advantages: “The PDA allows us the immediate documentation of side effects. In addition, we can also call up every information about the patient and the administration of the chemotherapy on the ward screen.” And: All information regarding dose, infusion duration, events or adverse effects are transmitted electronically to the pharmacy, guaranteeing a complete documentation.

Higher satisfaction of staff, patients and relatives

Clara Pujol can only see advantages to this system. “The entire process of administering chemotherapy operates a lot more orderly, transparent and flexible now. For instance, we can add drugs electronically if necessary, and we also have a better control about what has been administered and what hasn’t.” Even new staff members have no problem swiftly acquainting themselves with the system.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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Clara Pujol scanning the barcode of a cancer patient before administering the therapy

Another important issue is the “much better” safety, mirrored in a correspondingly high staff satisfaction. “We used to be under a fair amount of stress regarding chemotherapeutics, simply because we are well aware of the potentially severe consequences any error can have. The new system with its improved safety allows all of us to work in a much more relaxed atmosphere.” Furthermore, using a PDA has sped up the entire process, and the time gain is much appreciated by all – including the patients and their relatives, as the better planning calculability supports the punctual administration.

Hassle-free professional support

And how did the team experience the changeover? The professional support delivered by B. Braun “was always available. When questions arose, we were able to reach our contact partners at any time, night or day – any problem was solved within a week at the most”, says Ms Pujol. The Spanish nurse thinks that older staff might have needed a bit more time for the switch than younger ones, but all members of staff now prefer the new system. “Let’s put it this way: It has become extremely difficult for us to make an error during the administration of chemotherapy”, is her conclusion.



If you want to find out more about OncoSafety Remote Control®, please scan the QR code or visit:

www.bbraun.com/oncosafety