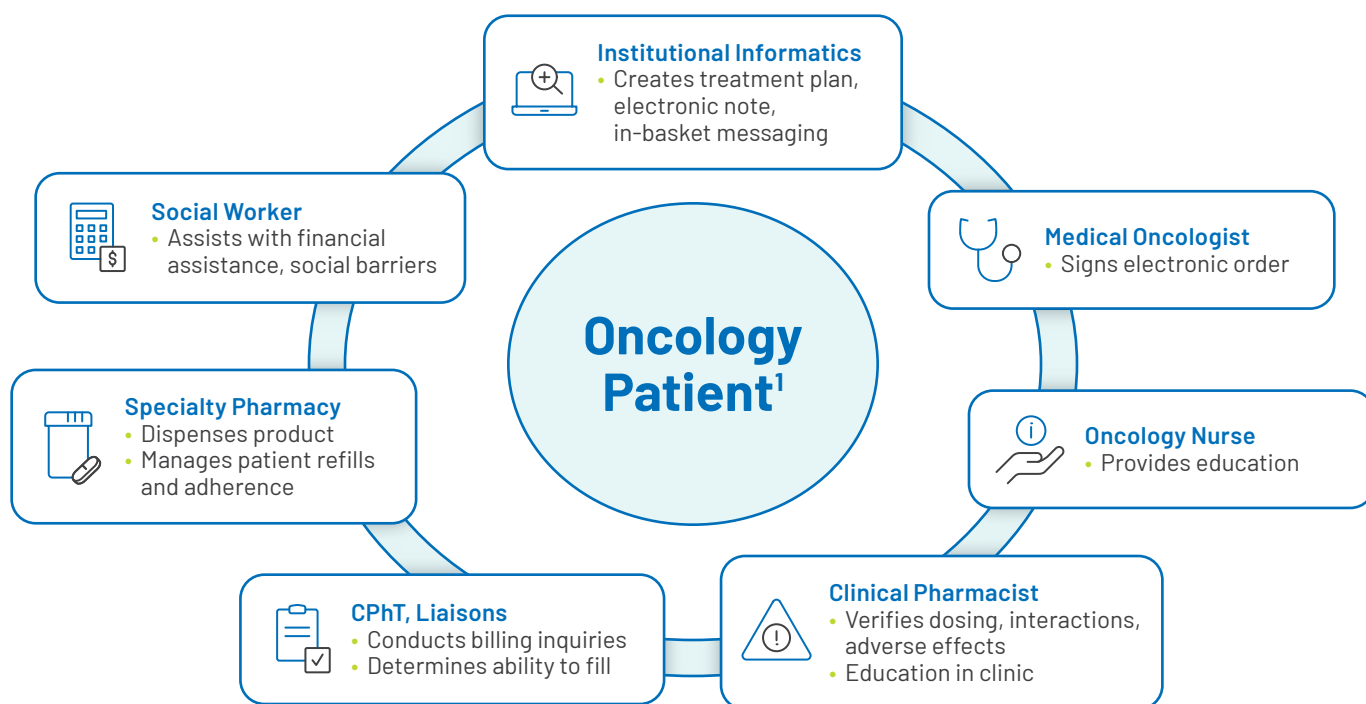


What Made an Oral Chemotherapy Management Program Successful?

Investigators performed a retrospective study of an oral chemotherapy management program (OCMP) at the Henry Ford Cancer Institute between 2012 and 2016 to measure the impact of the program on adverse events in patients taking oral chemotherapy. This study compared patients treated in the same center before and after implementation of the OCMP.¹

A multidisciplinary group was organized to support a variety of components related to medication adherence in order to decrease the incidence of adverse effects and improve management of any adverse effects.¹



Background¹

A total of 350 patients were included in the study: 175 patients in the OCMP group and 175 patients in the pre-OCMP group.




Results¹

All-grade toxic effects for nausea, diarrhea, hand-and-foot, vomiting, and stomatitis were statistically significantly lower in the OCMP group (58.9%) than in the pre-OCMP group (70.3%) (P=0.03).

Interpretation

This model, while successful, can help guide other management programs but is not all encompassing or practical for all practice sites. There were limitations to this study, including retrospective design and potential documentation bias for adverse effects noted in the electronic medical record before OCMP implementation. It is also unknown whether the OCMP used would have the same impact on all oral oncolytics, as capecitabine was the only agent studied. The successful practices in this model can serve as a guide for programs looking to improve adverse effect management in the oral oncology space.

Oral chemotherapy management programs can improve patient safety by reducing common drug-related adverse effects.¹ Key elements have been demonstrated to aid patients and practitioners in achieving this goal.

	Standardized patient education about intended use, dosage and administration, efficacy, potential adverse effects, and boxed warnings^{1,2}
	Close monitoring throughout the patient's duration of therapy^{1,2}
	Regularly scheduled assessments^{1,2}

Practice sites can incorporate successful components of existing oral chemotherapy management programs from case studies and literature into their current or developing programs.

Medication management programs that have demonstrated success had several of the above components.^{1,*}

Adverse effect management programs must be specifically tailored to be most effective.

It is best to utilize all healthcare professionals available so that each member of the team can assist the patient.

How do you feel
about your existing
management programs?


What could be better,
in your opinion?

How will you make changes
to further ensure better
outcomes for your patients?

*It is unknown whether the OCMP would have the same impact on all oral oncolytics, as capecitabine was the only agent studied.

References: 1. Nhean S, et al. Impact of oral chemotherapy management program on capecitabine toxicity management. JCO Oncol Pract 2021;17(7):e1021-9. 2. Coppock K. Strategies for improving adherence with oral oncolytics. Pharmacy Times. <https://www.pharmacytimes.com/view/strategies-for-improving-adherence-with-oral-oncolytics>. Published 07-15-2021. Accessed 04-04-2022.



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