

My day with Oncology Pharmacy - Poland

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1. Introduction

In form of an ESOP survey in March and April 2022, professionals were asked about their working situation in preparation of read-to-use cytotoxic drugs. All relevant daily working processes as activities in prescription and validation of cytotoxic drugs as also their clinical pharmaceutical support in patient care are addressed. This poster presents the country specific evaluation.

2. Material and method

The survey with 18 questions was translated into different languages and performed nationally using a web based application.

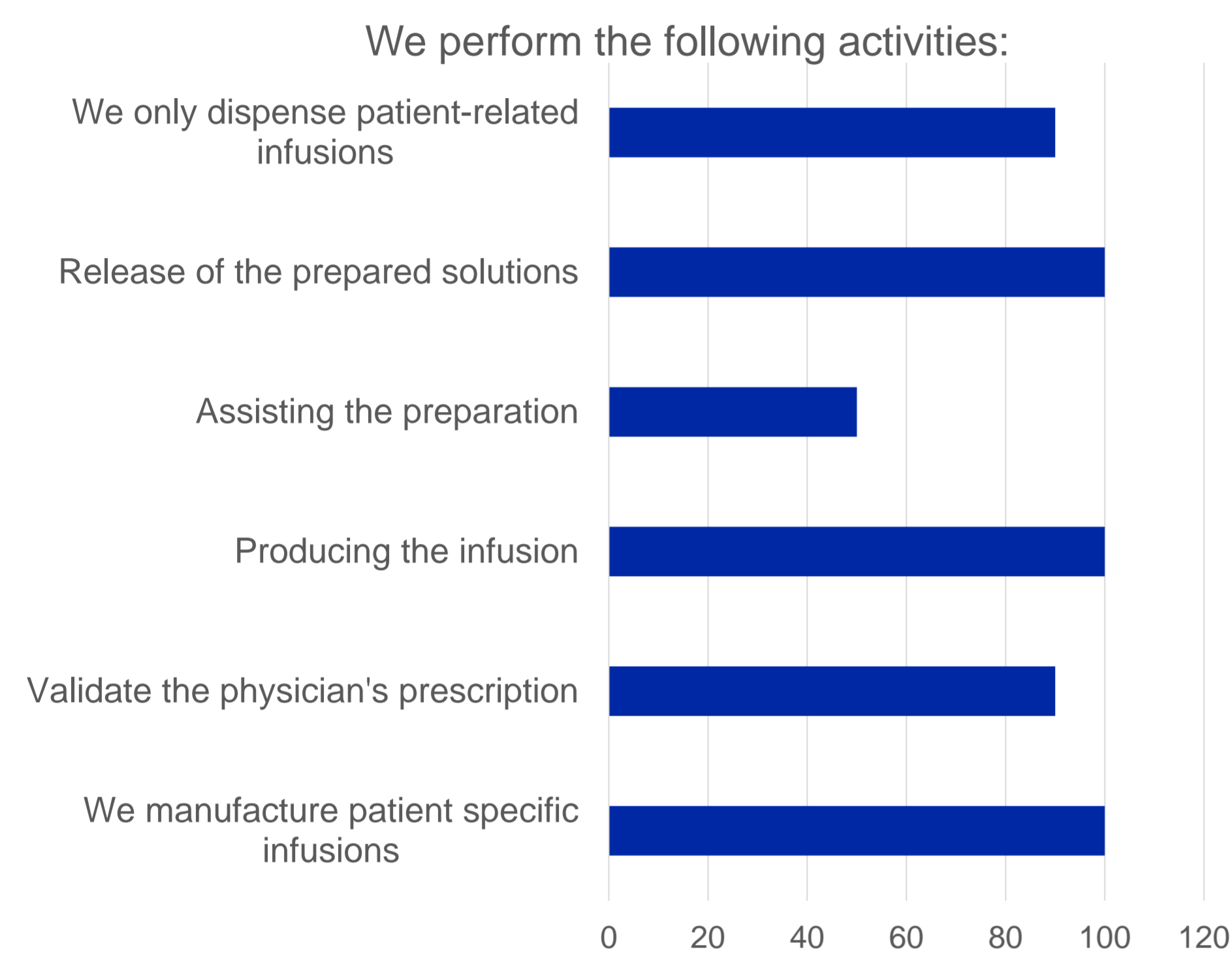


Fig.1: Activities performed.

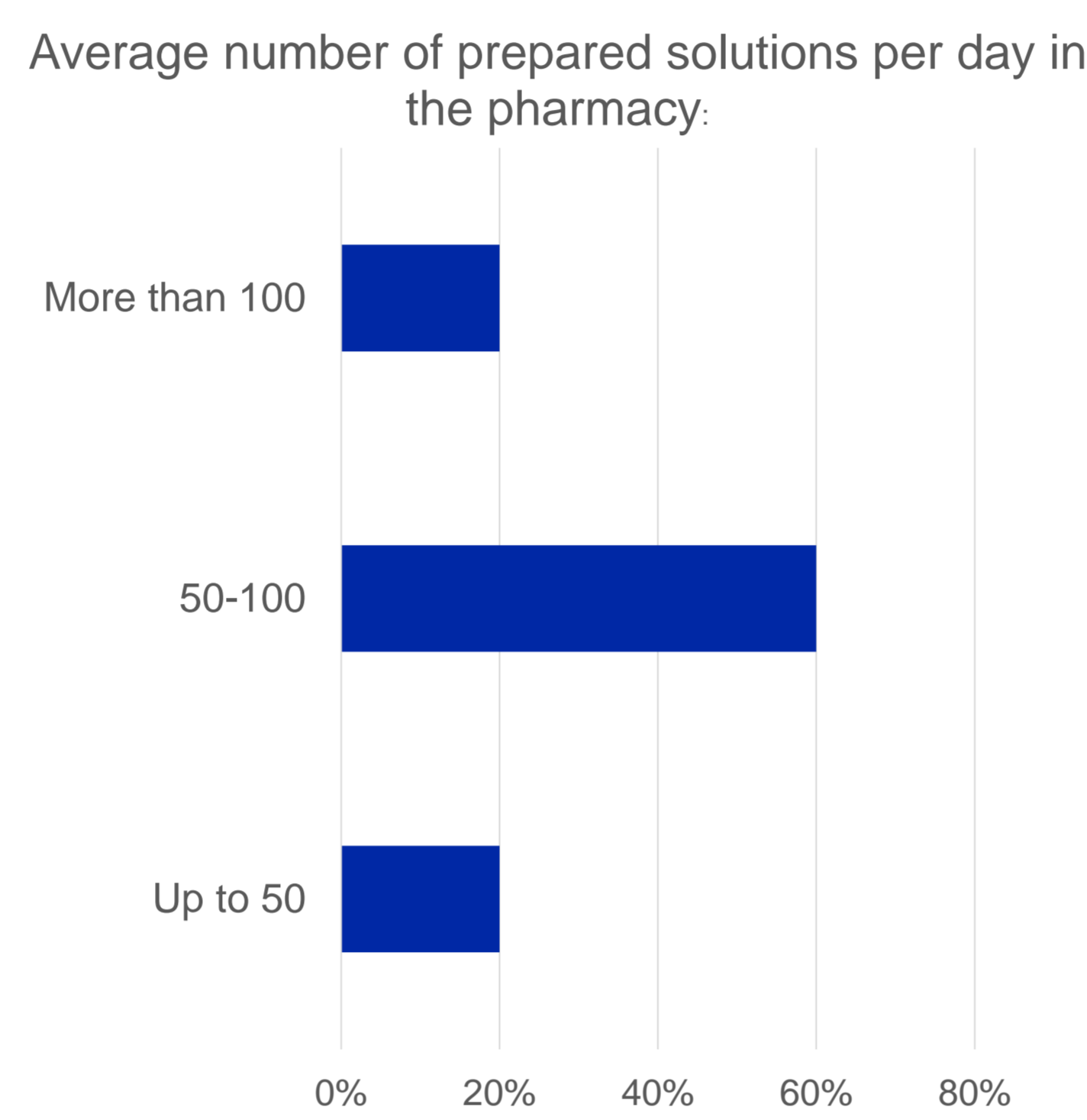


Fig.2: Average number of prepared solutions per day in the pharmacy.

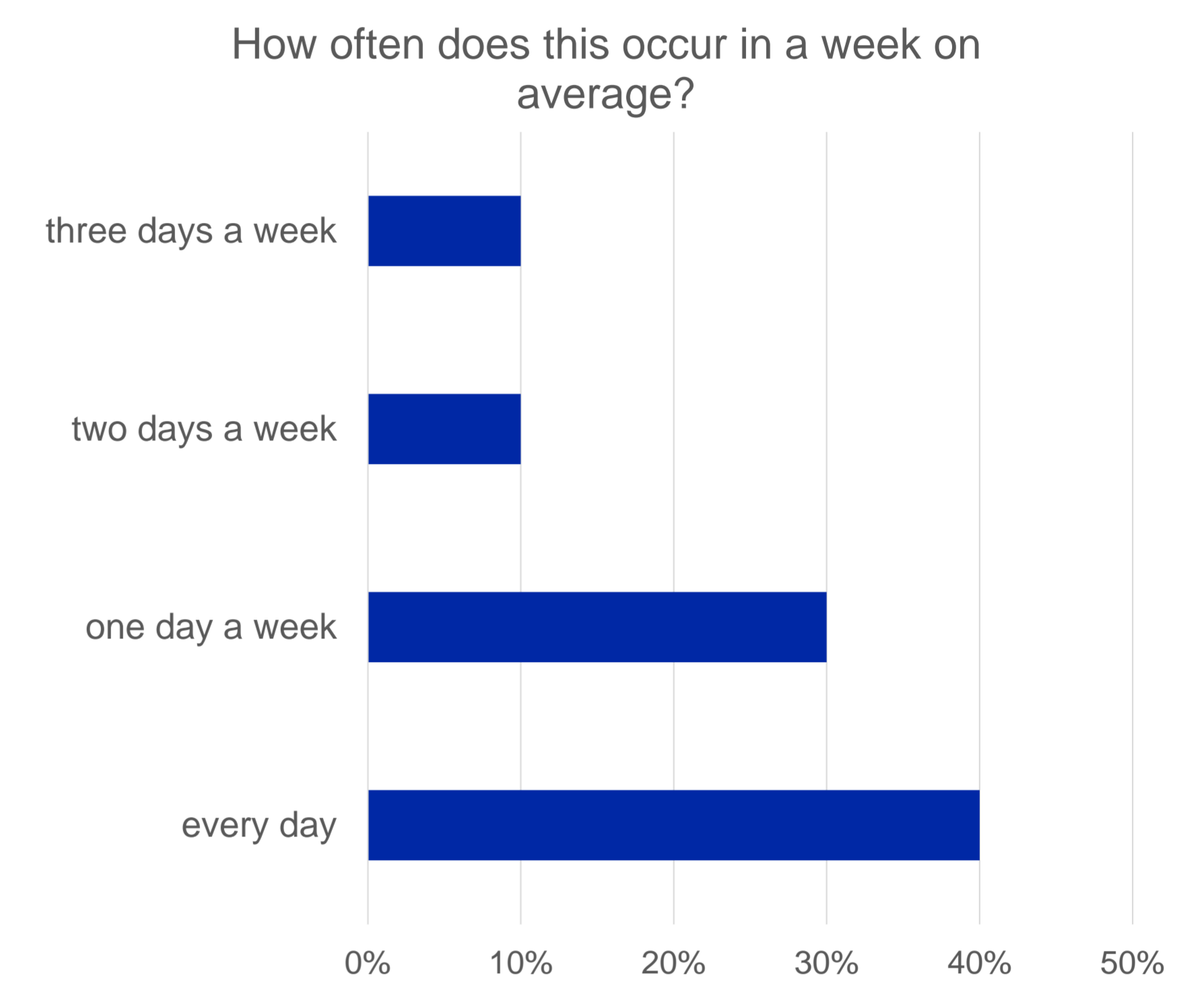


Fig.3: Dispensing oral cancer medication to patients.

3. Results and discussion

Oncology pharmacy is the field of pharmacy that is developing very quickly in countries across Europe. Hospital pharmacies expand their activities, and there is still growing population of patients being treated with chemotherapy drugs. There is great area for pharmacists to show our skills in field of oncology pharmacy and pharmaceutical care dedicated to patients treated with chemotherapy. In every country in Europe there is different level of development of this services. The goal of this research was to gather data from every country and compare them, so we could find the basis for future activities and cooperation.

In Polish hospitals chemo drugs are prepared in hospital pharmacies. Pharmacies are equipped with safety cabinets. Level of development of oncology pharmacy in Poland could be compared to the one in other countries of western Europe. In Polish pharmacies we have pharmacists and pharmacy technicians working in the field of i.v. drug preparations, but role of technicians is limited to assisting preparation. Pharmacist are responsible for validating prescription, production and releasing for the patient. In dispensing oral drugs there are both pharmacists and pharmacy technicians involved. Most popular model of dispensing oral drugs is dispensing them to the ward, where drug is being dispensed to the patient by nursing staff. In some pharmacies there is direct dispensing to the patients conducted. This kind of service is getting more popular and this the direction in which we want to go. Pharmaceutical care in Polish healthcare system is new service implemented by Pharmacist profession regulation just last year.

In Poland survey was sent to members of Polish Society of Oncological Pharmacy (PSFO). Questions in this survey helped us to determine working area, range of duties in the field of oncology pharmacy, pharmaceutical staff involved in processes, frequency of certain activities a week and average time spent on this activities.

1. Profession: Pharmacist 90%, pharmacy technician 10 %
2. Working place: Hospital pharmacy 100%
3. I.V. drugs manufacturing: 100%
4. Prescription validation: 90% yes, 10% no
5. Assisting preparation: 50% yes, 50% no
6. Release of the prepared solutions: 100% yes
7. Dispensing only patient-related infusions: 100% yes
8. Form of received prescription: electronic prescription: 90%, 10% paper
9. Average number of prepared solutions per day in the pharmacy: up to 50: 20%, 50-100: 60%, more than 100: 20%
10. Direct contact with oncology patients: 40%: yes, 60% no
11. Direct consultation to patient: 40%: yes, 60% no
12. Where is dispensing of oral cancer drugs possible in your country: hospitals and community pharmacy 100%
13. Do you dispense oral cancer medication to patients: 60% yes, 40% no
14. How often does this occur in a week on average: every day 60%, once a week 30%, twice a week 10%, three times a week 10%
15. Do you teach patients with oral cancer drugs: 50% yes, 50% no
16. If yes you teach about:
 - Drug Information: 30%
 - Side effects: 30%
 - Providing an intake plan: 20%
17. How much time do I spend on average with oncology pharmacy in the working day: 6-8 h 80%, 4-6h 20%

Conclusion

Polish oncological pharmacist is responsible for manufacturing i.v. chemo drugs. In Polish law system pharmacy technician has his duties limited to assistance in this process. Pharmacist is responsible for prescription validation, release of prepared solutions and dispensing it. Electronic form of prescription is dominant one in Polish hospital pharmacies, only 10% of them accepts paper form. Most common number of prepared solutions a day varies between 50 and 100 productions. Direct consultations to patients are conducted by 40 % of participants who answered our questions. Pharmaceutical care is implemented in 40% of hospitals and pharmacists provide information about drug, side effects in 30% of those who answered yes for this question, and 20 % informs also about intake plan. 80% of participants spends 6-8 hours a day on oncology pharmacy, while 20% spends 4-6 hours every day.

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