My day with Oncology Pharmacy - Netherlands

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1. Introduction

In the form of an ESOP survey in 2025, professionals were asked about their working situation in preparation and/or delivering of ready-to-use or oral 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 specific evaluation for the Netherlands..

2. Materials and Methods

The survey was distributed via email to pharmacists and pharmacy technicians working in oncology pharmacy and aseptic services in The Netherlands. The survey consisted of 14 questions. Pharmacists from 3 hospitals completed the survey, 2 of them are university hospitals. Their answers represent the actual situation in The Netherlands

Pharmacy technicians from Amsterdam UMC in the central chemotherapy compounding cleanroom working with the chemotherapy compounding robots

3. Results and Discussion

Preparation of patient specific infusions is done by pharmacy technicians

Pass on of materials into the work spaces is done by pharmacy technicians

The number of produced medications per day mostly exceeds 100

Validation of prescription from physicians is done by pharmacists, this is about 50% of the daily workload. 100% of prescriptions are received in electronical form.

Release of produced medications is done by pharmacists or by pharmacy technicians who were not directly involved in the preparations, this is about 12% of the daily workload

Patient consultation on optimal use and side effects of medications is done by pharmacists or pharmacy technicians

All hospitals manufacture oncologicals according to the Dutch GMP-Z guidelines in centralized production units by 4 eye procedure, by gravimetric procedure or by robotic procedure

Medication reconciliation is done by pharmacy technicians, and medication reviews are done by pharmacists. Usage of the Dutch national drug database for information provision on oral drugs is mandatory.

A dedicated oncology specialisation program is available and operational for hospital pharmacists

Conclusion

Oncology pharmacists play a crucial role in maintaining medication safety and efficacy. In The Netherlands, respondents described working practices in the aseptic compounding unit and on the wards. To bring the production experts more into the clinical areas, which facilitates exchanges with physicians, nurses and patients, more and more hospitals are integrating production modules and dispensing areas into the oncological outpatient unit. This makes it possible that oncology pharmacists can combine clinical tasks with pharmaceutical tasks such as overseeing production.

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