AN EVALUATION OF ONCOLOGY NURSE LED EDUCATION FOR CANCER PATIENTS RECEIVING FIRST IV CHEMOTHERAPY/BIOThERAPY TREATMENT

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Background/Significance: As oncology care continues to move toward delivery in the outpatient setting, providers must be able to find ways to effectively educate patients about diagnosis, treatment, and symptom management. As described in a report by the Institute of Medicine, *Crossing the Quality Chasm* (2001), a health care system that achieves improvements in safety, effectiveness, patient-centered care, timely and efficient care, is more effective in meeting patient needs. Few models to enhance the delivery of cancer patient education have been proposed or evaluated.

Purpose of the Study: The purpose of this study is to evaluate the quantitative and qualitative outcomes of oncology nurse led cancer patient education for patients who will be receiving IV chemotherapy/biotherapy, comparing the outcomes of the current process of providing education during the treatment visit to a separate patient education visit. A proposal was approved by the ProHealth Care Institutional Review Board (IRB); recruitment began in June 2014.

Sample Description: The sample includes patients newly diagnosed with cancer, who will be receiving an IV chemotherapy/biotherapy regimen, in a southeastern Wisconsin community-based cancer center clinic.

Method/Design and Procedure: The clinic nurse presents the newly diagnosed patient with options for delivery of the education content as: 1) at the time of his/her treatment visit; or 2) in a separate patient education visit. Patients were recruited at the end of their regularly scheduled appointment with their oncologist. The clinic nurse invited the cancer patient to participate in the study to evaluate outcomes of patient education. The education session at the time of the treatment visit was scheduled to be delivered by an oncology certified treatment nurse during the patient’s first IV chemotherapy/biotherapy treatment appointment. For the separate patient education visit, the education session was scheduled for one hour delivered by an oncology certified treatment nurse on an afternoon prior to the treatment day. The treatment nurses were trained on the standardized, evidence-based process and tools for IV chemotherapy/biotherapy education and documentation. In addition, these nurses were scheduled to deliver the IV chemotherapy and conduct the follow-up telephone call within 48-72 hours post treatment to assess for side effects. After fifteen patients are recruited to each arm of the study for a sample size of 30, recruitment will be completed.

Results/Outcomes: To date, there have been 20 patients recruited to the study. As data collection has been ongoing throughout the study, completion of recruitment and data analysis is anticipated by the end of February 2015. The outcomes include data analysis related to: psychosocial distress scores, acute symptom visits, symptom telephone calls, and symptom hospitalizations during the course of the treatment regimen.

Conclusions/Implications: This study may lead to new, innovative patient education methods applied to other cancer therapies, providing an option that may improve the patient’s cancer treatment experience.