Expanding Paediatric Oncology Care into the Home

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Hospital Code Name: Monash Health
KEY PROBLEMS

- No home based service available to provide chemotherapy administration of s/c Cytarabine for paediatric patients with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia (ALL)
- Limited capacity in Oncology Outpatients and IP bed block
- Family caregivers were required to administer their child’s Cytarabine via s/c injection or present to the Children’s Cancer Centre
  - Families were left with the physical and emotional burden of administering injections OR
  - The burden of travelling to the Children’s Cancer Centre (parking, petrol, time away from family, school, work….)
AIM OF THIS INNOVATION

- To expand paediatric home based outreach services to include the delivery of low complexity chemotherapy for paediatric oncology ALL patients in a formalised way.
No home based nursing service available to administer Cytarabine in patient’s homes by trained staff
KEY CHANGES IMPLEMENTED

This project supported:

- Hospital Outreach Nurses to attend oncology study days - ½ day weekly for 4 weeks (N=10)
- Clinical competency assessment & chemotherapy accreditation
- Development of nursing procedures for safe, home administration of Cytarabine
- Paediatric nursing home visits for the purpose of administration of Cytarabine
- Education and support for parents regarding the ongoing care of their child
OUTCOMES SO FAR

19 children have had home visits for administration of Cytarabine

133 bed days saved

Travel and time saved for families

- Travel distance: range <5 - 130km, total saving approx 1,752 km
- Average time of each visit 3hrs including travel time saved
- Resulting in 133 days where hospital visits not required (increasing time for work/family/school time)

Hospital beds freed via “Care in the Home Model”

- 85 day oncology admissions
- 48 inpatient (ward) admissions (at weekend)

Financial benefits

- Revenue to hospital retained via billing home visits
- Potential revenue increase with additional 133 bed days available
LESSONS LEARNT

- Consider evaluation data required at commencement of project