Teaching patients with myeloma to self-administer subcutaneous chemotherapy

Why change the model of care?

66% of patients 30-60 minutes for treatment in Day Unit

31% of patients wait 60-90 minutes for treatment in Day Unit

12% of patients wait over 90-120 minutes for treatment in Day Unit

Average wait 79 minutes

Why such long hospital visits?

Process issues
- Lack of PBS scripts
- Order waiting for sign off
- Inconsistent blood monitoring

Manufacturing
- In house manufacture
- Reviewing abnormal pathology results

Administration
- Inadequate staffing
- Complex patient group
- Frequent pathology abnormalities

Patient
- Worries about blood results
- Chemotherapy or disease related side effects

Addressing the knowledge/practice gap

PATIENTS
- Engage in project team
- Assess capability & competence to self administer
- Provide verbal/written education & information/equipment
- Weekly tele health assessment

ORGANISATION & SYSTEMS LEVEL
- Collaborative approach to model of care
- Improve prescribing/pathology monitoring
- Off site manufacture of drug
- Develop tele health assessment tool
- Model of continuous improvement

Benefits of chemotherapy self administration

Patient
- Reduced frequency of hospital visits
- Reduced risk of infection
- Promotion of independence and self management skills
- Perceived quality of life improvement

Organisation
- Streamlined & intuitive processes
- Efficient use of resources
- Increase in Day Unit capacity
- Fulfils strategic priorities of patient focussed & collaborative care

For further information contact project lead: Haematology Nurse Practitioner Gosford & Wyong Cancer Day Units, Cancer Services, CCLHD