



EVERY DROP COUNTS: Oncology Pharmacy Practice in ABUTH Zaria



Background

Historically, cancer medications in ABUTH were dispensed in the same out patient pharmacy unit as all other medications.

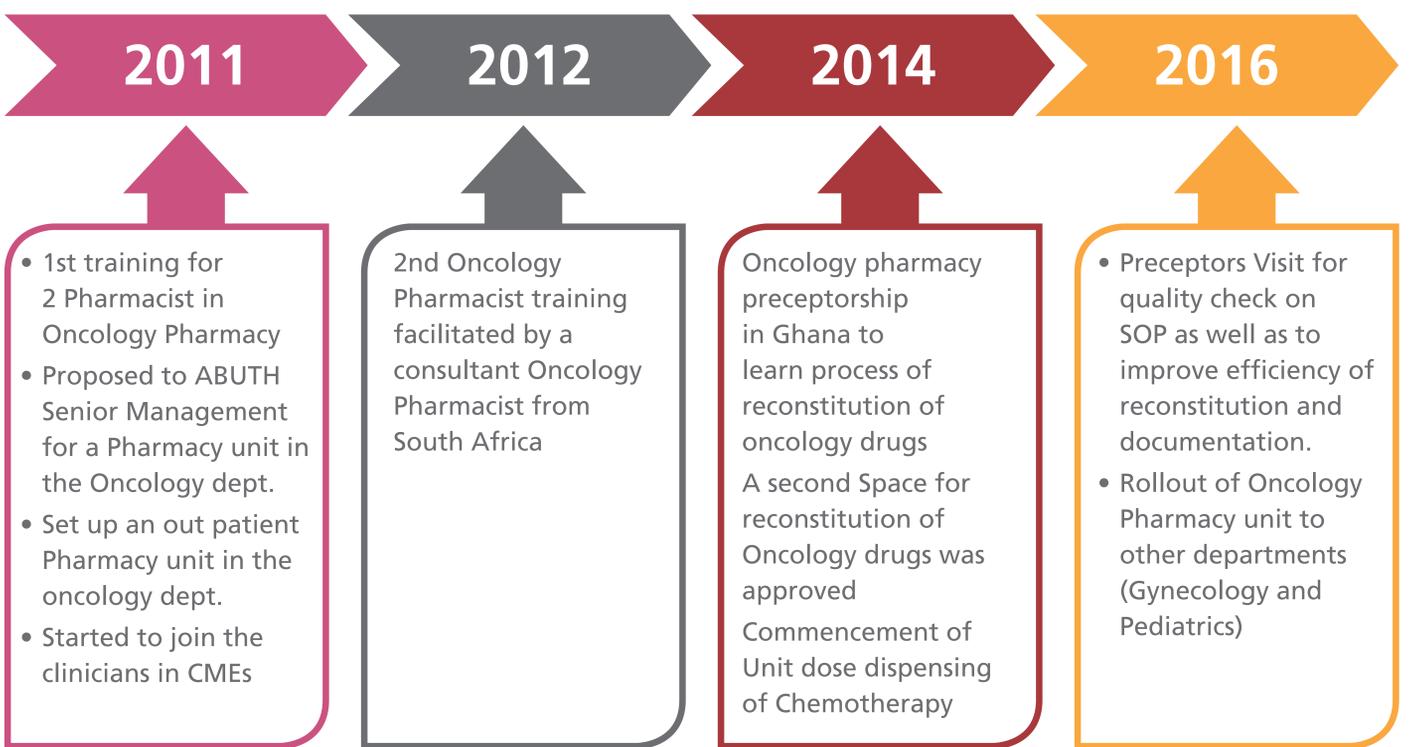
This caused a long waiting time (sometimes up to 2hrs) for cancer patients as they will have to take queue up along side out patients from the various clinics in the hospital.

This also did not allow for adequate Patient-Pharmacist interaction and cancer patients are not adequately counselled on their Chemotherapy.

The interaction between Pharmacist and Clinicians was very minimal and only able to meet about 1/3 of the chemotherapy need of the Clinicians and patients.

Actions Taken: Key Milestones

In a bid to tackle some of these challenges, the pharmacy team undertook to reform the service delivery process.



Outcomes

- Reduction in patient waiting time
- Reduction in cost of medications
- Increased precision in dose
- Reduction in contamination of medication
- Increased interaction with patients
- Increased interaction with other members of the oncology team
- Improvement in waste management
- Improved storage facilities thereby retaining potency
- All Pharmacist 1 trained on the SOP and technique in the oncology Pharmacy

Key Performance Indicators

- Meeting over 90% of patients' drug needs
- 15% - 30% reduction in total cost of Chemotherapy to cancer patients.
- Over 80% of patients now completing treatment

Areas of Improvement

- Acquisition of basic equipment
- More space to ensure adherence to standard regulation
- Number and exposure of personnel permanently in the unit.
- Improve waste disposal facilities

Key Learnings

- Commitment of the oncology pharmacists
- Team spirit within the oncology team
- Strong Management's support
- Pharmacist play a strong role in ensuring best outcome for cancer patients

Conclusion

Cost has always been the barrier to completion of cancer treatment courses. Reduction in cost therefore is inevitable in breaking down this barrier and breaking this barrier means saving more lives

Collaborators: Oncology Department ABUTH, Administration of ABUTH & Roche Products Limited, Nigeria.



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