

Weekend Preparations by the Example of ESOP Members

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Present Data at PERH

- Centralized preparation unit in North Estonia Medical Centre started in March 2008*
- Number of preparations in 2008: 14302**
- Number of preparations in 2009: 18428

* Preparations for solid tumors and lymphomas

** Since March

Matters Arising at PERH

- Preparations for weekends
- Preparations for NEW patients on weekends - approx. 2 – 3 new patients per weekend, meaning approx. 10 NEW preparations



How Do We Work Across Europe?

Regionaalhaigla





- Inquiry regarding working at the weekends was sent out to ESOP members
- Feedback was received from 12 different countries



How Do We Work Across Europe?

-  : “Wherever possible chemotherapy should be administered in a designated area within the working hours of Monday – Friday between 09.00 – 17.00. Cytotoxic drugs are to be reconstituted within normal working hours, except in emergency circumstances, such as hematology patients who require immediate chemotherapy treatment.”
-  : “We prepare chemotherapy regularly on Saturday morning and Sunday morning because there are drugs which have a very limited stability of a few hours.”



How Do We Work Across Europe?

-  : “We don’t have emergencies during the weekend because we don’t have hematology at the hospital (just lymphomas). This allows us to organise the chemotherapies on Fridays for the weekend as the latest they are prescribed is on Friday, but pharmacist is always working on Saturday.”
-  : “For unstable drugs, we give preparation kits for nurses and they prepare infusions in the wards. Kits contain Securmix devices, gloves and gown. Kits are given with the prescription order and a preparation procedure for each infusion.”


How Do We Work Across Europe?

-  : “Normally we don’t prepare during the weekend, we do it all in advance (on Fridays) except for those drugs that are not stable for more than 24 hours. We do not work on weekends. We have a pharmacist that is available for emergency calls on weekends and in the evening/nights when the pharmacy is closed.”
-  : “Preparation is done in the wards.”



How Do We Work Across Europe?

-  : “Normally we don’t prepare during the weekend, we do it all in advance. Eexcept for those drugs that are not stable for more than 24 hours or for very urgent new schema’s. As we work an whole day on Saturday and half a day on Sunday this is not a big problem.”
-  : “There is no chemotherapy prepared or administered during weekends.”

How Do We Work Across Europe?

-  : “Our pharmacy is not open during the weekend or public holidays. We prepare the drugs, that are stable through the weekend, if the drugs are not stable but the patient needs them, we only dispense the vials and the nurses prepare cytostatics.”

How Do We Work Across Europe?

-  : “Only when necessary in case of short expiration time.”
-  : “At my site here in Iceland we do every chemo dose in advance for the weekends if possible, which it is almost always. Normally the pharmacy is open for some time with minimum staff during weekends so if something acute or not foreseen comes up we do prepare it during the weekends.”

Changes of Arrangement of Weekend Preparations at PERH



- At the start the preparations were performed in the wards by nurses. The drugs with protective devices (PhaSeal) and gloves were provided by the pharmacy
- Evaluation of our microbiological state (“dummy” preparations) was carried out by ourselves
- Currently the drugs are prepared in advance for the following day. 1 pharmacist + 1 technician are on duty on Saturdays

Summary

Three different tendencies were spotted according the inquiry:

- Whenever possible, preparations for weekends are being made in advance
- In case of essential need, eg. short expiration time of drug or acute illness, pharmacies are ready to provide weekend service
- Pharmacies are operating during weekends

Thank You for Your Attention!

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