

An overall expectation of this study was that factors which facilitate and impinge upon current practice of chemotherapy administration would be identified. An understanding of these factors is needed to ensure that nurses have the educational, emotional and instrumental support to deliver chemotherapy safely.

The study has been designed to enable a holistic exploration of the care of patients during chemotherapy, by gathering data in different ways (participant observation, questionnaires and interviews), framed within an ethnographic approach. Data yielded will provide a clear description of nurses' attitudes, feelings and beliefs on chemotherapy administration and how these impact on their practice.

Data collection has finished and analysis is on-going but preliminary findings indicate:

- Big differences in the specialist knowledge and education of nurses administering chemotherapy
- The ways in which specialist knowledge and education can influence nurses' attitudes, beliefs and feelings concerning administering chemotherapy
- The importance of the context of administration, the composition of the nursing team and work practices in relation to the levels of nurses' stress and how this effects patient care

The findings will be discussed with regard to current literature with recommendations for future practice and education provision.

1665

POSTER

#### The role of the research nurse in the recruitment of cancer patients to clinical trials: providing an equitable service

N. Douglas, A. Quennell, M. Kent, V. King, G. Crane, L. Underhill, L. Picco, J. Walton, J. Idris, H. McVicar. *South East London Cancer Research Network, Medical Oncology, London, United Kingdom*

**Background:** As a direct result of the NHS Cancer Plan the South East London Cancer Research Network (SELCRN) was established in August 2001 in order to increase the national target of patients recruited into clinical trials to 10%.

Evaluation of the roles of the research nurse within this network will identify of potential improvement in order to ensure, not only that targets are being met, but also that the service provided is equitable.

**Material and Methods:** 10 research nurses (SELCRN) maintained a diary, detailing the work undertaken daily for an initial 2 week period. The time taken for tasks such as clinic preparation, reviewing both follow-up and new patients, CRF completion and telephone calls was recorded. The aim was to capture the broad spectrum of work undertaken and to see if there were any differences in workload that could be attributed to specific tumour types. After the initial 2 week period the diaries will be peer reviewed in order to evaluate if this was a useful tool for future use.

**Results and Background:** An evaluation of the diaries of Research nurses at SELCRN will be presented. The results will highlight.

1. The varied role of the research nurse
2. Any areas which could be expanded in order to improve the service
3. Common/differences in work undertaken by specific tumour sites

**Conclusion:** The evaluation of the data will be used to further define the role of the research nurse with the primary aim of providing an equitable access to research trials. Ensuring research is promoted as a dynamic area in which involved nurses can make a real difference. As research networks maintain a high calibre of staff this will mean that patients will receive the benefit of having a broader choice in relation to their treatment.

1666

POSTER

#### The nursing discharge letter: a fundamental tool to ensure continuity of care

M. Bianchi<sup>1</sup>, L. Lunghi<sup>2</sup>, T. Suardi<sup>3</sup>. <sup>1</sup>*Istituto Europeo Di Oncologia, Nurse Office, Milano, Italy;* <sup>2</sup>*Istituto Europeo Di Oncologia, Medical Oncology, Milano, Italy;* <sup>3</sup>*Istituto Europeo Di Oncologia, Urology, Milano, Italy*

The nursing discharge letter is a fundamental tool for nurses operating in ward units. At the time of discharge, this letter enables the nursing staff to offer a range of information of use to the patient and their family in continuing the therapeutic programme, in preventing or reducing side effects and/or responding to general healthcare needs. Should the patient be unable to return home or provide for their healthcare needs, whether self-sufficiently or with family help, the information will be directed towards the staff who will take responsibility for the patient's healthcare in specialised healthcare centres or through integrated homecare.

**Methodology:** The overall methodology followed these steps:

1. Definition of a working group as representing as much as possible the needs of the different types of department present in the Institute: the head nurse of a surgical ward, the head nurse of a non-surgical ward, and a representative of the nursing service

2. Creation of two different informatics tools (one for ordinary discharge, one for protected discharge), based on a needs analysis for the nursing staff of the various Divisions regarding the information to be provided at the time of discharge. This information is necessary both in cases of self-sufficient patients and in cases where the patients need home care support or hospital admission.
3. Staff education and training concerning the importance of the nursing discharge letter and the correct use of the tools
4. Implementation pilot phase
5. Modification of the tools on the basis of suggestions and needs which arose in the pilot phase, creating specific "flags" for the requirements and characteristics peculiar to each Division
6. Tools application
7. Assessment of their efficiency by surveying closed clinical records in which the presence of the document and certain characteristics of its completion are determined.

**Results:** As yet incomplete. They will be the subject of the Conference poster presentation.

**Conclusions:** Even though the results are not yet complete, the tangible importance of this tool in the Institute's armamentarium of clinical documentation can be readily attested. Furthermore, it is important to note its positive acceptance on the part of the nursing staff who finally have a tool at their disposal to record the healthcare and nursing information essential to the patient at the time of discharge.

1667

POSTER

#### Training in oncology nursing as post-graduate studies – the Portuguese reality

M.L. Pinto Coelho<sup>1</sup>, C. Pinto<sup>2</sup>, A. Espadinha<sup>3</sup>. <sup>1</sup>*Escola Superior de Enfermagem Bissaya Barreto, Enfermagem Cirúrgica, Coimbra, Portugal;* <sup>2</sup>*Escola Superior de Enfermagem Cidade do Porto, Enfermagem Pediátrica, Porto, Portugal;* <sup>3</sup>*Escola Superior de Enfermagem Francisco Gentil, Enfermagem Cirúrgica, Lisboa, Portugal*

The improvements in Oncology as far as prevention, tracking, diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation and supporting care are concerned have generated the need to train and manage multidisciplinary, multi-professional and multi-sector teams... The work of such teams focuses the individual and in inter-action with the primary, secondary and tertiary sectors and is expected to give appropriate response to problems arising from oncology disease.

The Higher Schools of Nursing Bissaya Barreto – Coimbra, Francisco Gentil – Lisboa and Cidade do Porto – Porto in collaboration with the Regional Oncology Centres of the Oncology Institute Francisco Gentil in Coimbra Lisbon and Porto are aware of this fact and take the responsibility inherent to their function. These Centres have started a partnership for the conception and implementation of Post-graduate Studies in Oncology Nursing. Thus they give some response to the National Cancer plan 2001/2005 and are based on the Core Curriculum of the European Oncology Society (EONS).

23 meetings, 13 on a nationwide basis and 10 on a regional basis have been held by teaching staff of three state Schools and nurses of the Oncology Institutes.

As a result of these meetings the profile of the expert Oncology nurse has been drafted and the study-plan of Postgraduate studies in Oncology Nursing has been set up. This Study-plan has been credited by the European Oncology Nursing Society (EONS).

The fundamentals of the program are some of the most relevant to understand the oncology patient and to develop some thoughts on the practice, fostering critical analysis and the capability to solve problems according to scientific principles.

The curricular development was supported by a conceptual multidisciplinary, modular structure, open to the organization of contents with the aim to develop skills to care for the person/ family/ groups and community in the oncology area.

The evaluation was supported by the principles of adult pedagogy and enhanced the development of the trainees' skills. Individual and group work about the questions resulting from the lack of nursing care were privileged. The methodology project and the achievement file (portfolio) were some of the strategies used during the training.

The purpose of this paper is to describe the design of a course for post-graduation in oncology nursing at a nationwide level.

1668

POSTER

#### Effective leadership

A. Fox. *Northern Cancer Network, North Tyneside, United Kingdom*

The aim of this paper is to describe how strategic and operational leadership is being developed within the Northern Cancer Network to support service/ practice development as well as providing the opportunity