

Community Dispensing of Oral Medication for Prostate Cancer Patients

Gillian Barmack¹, Carla Forte¹, Alan Harrison², Janine Glen², Seonaid McLachlan³

1. Beatson West of Scotland Cancer Centre (Beatson WOSCC) 2. Pharmacy & Prescribing Support Unit 3. West of Scotland Cancer Network

Background

Since the introduction of the oral anti-cancer medications, abiraterone and enzalutamide, for prostate cancer, the workload within the multi-disciplinary uro-oncology clinic at the Beatson WOSCC has significantly increased.

Patients attend clinic routinely for clinical review prior to receiving prescriptions for these medications. The increasing number of patients receiving these medications puts additional pressure on an already very busy hospital clinic and dispensary. Clinics often run late and the patients have to wait up to two hours for their prescription to be dispensed after their clinic appointment.

Aim:

Improve the service and reduce patient waiting times by moving the dispensing of these medications into community pharmacies.

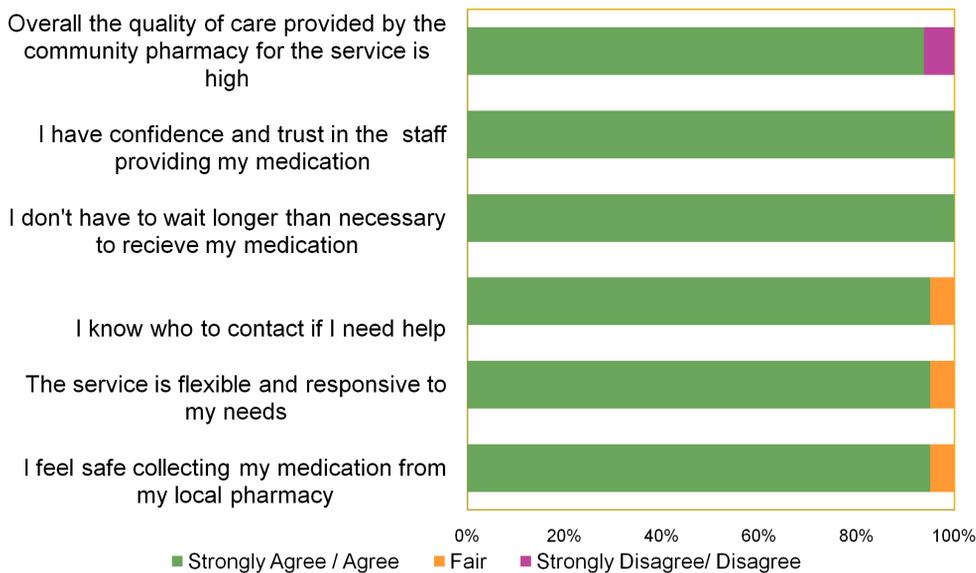
Methodology

- A short life working group was established involving members of the hospital and community pharmacy teams
- A standard operating procedure was developed for community dispensing of abiraterone and enzalutamide
- 14 week pilot for patients living in Glasgow and attending the non-medical prescribers in the clinic
- Patient nominated community pharmacy given information pack to support implementation
- Patients and pharmacists were sent a survey to complete at the end of the pilot

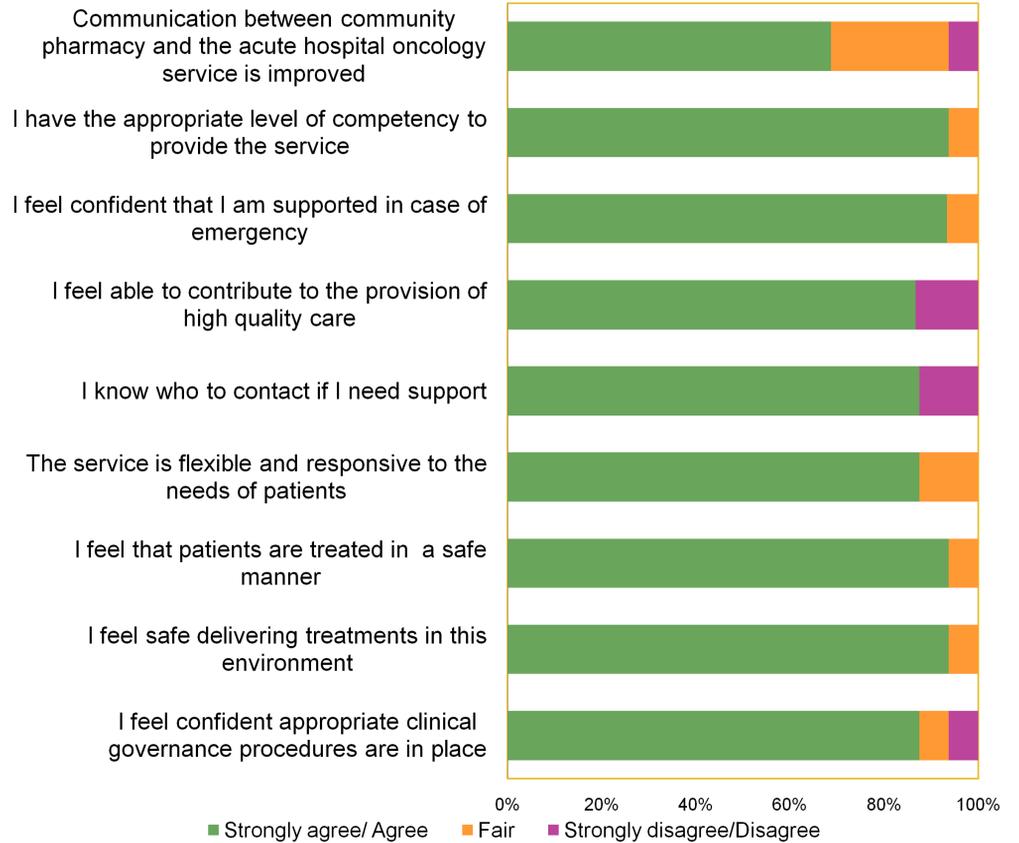
Results

28 patients and 27 community pharmacies were recruited during the pilot. Completed forms were collected from 20 patients and 16 pharmacies, which is a response rate of 71% and 59% respectively.

Patient Survey Responses



Pharmacist Survey Responses



'the drug is now on the patients' record. If we were not involved in this scheme it would not have been and we would not have known. It allows us to be aware of potential interactions and side effects'

'we took time at the beginning to look up the drug to give us a greater understanding of what it was and how it worked'



Pharmacists

'we now know more about the patient and his disease, if we were not involved in this scheme we would otherwise not have known'

'the scheme is very good and my time in the hospital is much less'

'getting my prescription dispensed in my own pharmacy means I spend less time in the hospital'



Patients

'the service and communication from the hospital and my pharmacy is great'

Discussion

- The patient journey has significantly improved as less time is spent within the hospital
- It has improved quality and flexibility of services to patients
- Community pharmacies are now aware of what hospital prescribed anti-cancer medications their patients are on and can play a part in managing side effects of these drugs
- Hospital dispensary workload has decreased, creating a positive effect on other services provided by the dispensary team
- Community pharmacy Scotland (CPS) has recently agreed that community dispensing of abiraterone and enzalutamide can be rolled out across Scotland using a process that has been collaboratively agreed between NHS Scotland and the CPS network

Conclusions

- Community dispensing of abiraterone and enzalutamide can be carried out safely and effectively improving patient experience and overall care
- Community pharmacy can now play an informed and more important role in the supply and management of care of these patients
- This model can now be considered to move the dispensing of other suitable medications to community pharmacies in Scotland

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With thanks to the patients and pharmacists who participated in this project.