Safe handling of cytotoxic medicines and related waste: Development of a self-assessment tool adapted to resource-constrained settings

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Objectives
Develop a self-assessment tool for low and middle-income countries (LMIC)
• Support implementation of safe handling practices
• Promote continuous quality improvement regarding cytotoxic medicines management

Context
The rising burden of cancer in LMIC and a higher use of chemotherapy treatments stress the need to promote and improve safe handling practices of cytotoxic medicines in those settings.

Method
Review of existing recommendations
Derivation of items addressing quality and safety aspects at every step of the cytotoxic process (10 categories-28 subcategories)
Pre-validation by a steering committee (internal to HUG)
Online Delphi survey (Surveymonkey®)

Delphi Panel
27 experts
13 countries

Characteristics of the pharmaceutical experts
High-income countries 14 (51.9%)
LMIC 13 (48.1%)
Experience with cytotoxics (years): median (Q1-Q3) 10 (4-18)
Type of Healthcare facilities: n (%)
University/academic Hospital 20 (75%)
Regional Hospital 4 (15%)
Private facilities 2 (7%)
Other 1 (3%)

Prioritization

98% (134/137) items reached consensus regarding their content and formulation
39% (52) items reached priority consensus

Conclusion
1st self-assessment tool to:
• Cover all the cytotoxic process
• Target LMIC
Consensus by 27 pharmaceutical experts
High participation rate emphasizes relevance of the topic

Authors report no conflict of interest

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