

outcome data regarding the impact of training APRNs to improve the quality of palliative care in oncology.

DEVELOPING EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS ABOUT BIOSIMILARS FOR CANCER PATIENTS AND CAREGIVERS

Danelle Johnston, MSN, RN, HON ONN CG, OCN®, Cancer Support Community, Washington, DC; **Kirstin Fearnley, MALS**, Cancer Support Community, Washington, DC; **Jenny Karubian, MA**, Ready to Launch Research, Los Angeles, CA; **Claire Saxton, MBA**, Cancer Support Community, Washington, DC; **Maria Gonzalo, MS**, Cancer Support Community, Washington, DC; **Asia Cutforth, BA**, Cancer Support Community, Washington, DC

The first anti-cancer biosimilars became available in the United States market in 2019. As more patients are either recommended by their provider or financially incentivized by their insurance to use a biosimilar, patients will likely have many questions and confusion about this new class of biologic therapies. It is increasingly important that patients become aware of biosimilars and understand that these drugs are safe and effective. The Frankly Speaking About Cancer (FSAC): Biosimilars program focuses on building awareness among patients and caregivers about biosimilars and their safety and efficacy as well as potential policy impacts. The objective of this project was to inform the development of educational materials and resources aimed at educating cancer patients and their caregivers about biosimilar drugs. Between 2019 and 2021, Cancer Support Community (CSC) facilitated a series of iterative focus groups and online discussion board testing of biosimilar patient education with a mix of cancer survivors (N=31) and caregivers (N=4). Findings assisted in the development of a booklet, infographic, and two videos. Participants were asked to review and provide feedback on the clarity of definitions and concepts, such as: What is a biosimilar drug? How are biosimilar drugs made? Are biosimilar drugs safe? Why am I getting a biosimilar? Results were derived via qualitative analysis of group and discussion board responses. Qualitative analysis of discussion board and focus group responses revealed that while participants judged the materials and most of the concepts to be clear and informative, patients and caregivers desired more clear information about the following: (a) Differences between biosimilar, biologic, and generic drugs, (b) safety and efficacy of biosimilar drugs, (c) composition of biosimilars, and if they are made from chemicals or living cells/tissue, and (d) whom they should talk with

about biosimilars. Following feedback, the materials were revised to reflect participants' input. CSC's qualitative research indicates that understanding safety and efficacy of biosimilar drugs are top of mind for patients. By addressing those concerns, patients are able to consider biosimilars equally with other treatment options. This underscores the importance of developing resources to help patients and caregivers understand biosimilar drugs and foster an open dialogue with health care providers about treatment decisions. These materials are available through CSC and Gilda's Club affiliates, program partners, and CancerSupportCommunity.org.

ONCOLOGY EXTERNSHIP FOR ACUTE CARE NURSE PRACTITIONER STUDENTS; PREPARING STUDENTS FOR ADVANCED ONCOLOGY PRACTICE

Cassie Walker, APRN-CNP, The James Cancer Hospital, Columbus, OH

The college curriculum prepares the Advanced Practice Provider (APP) for general practice in generalized practice specializing in acute or primary care. New graduates from these APP programs are preparing to enter a healthcare environment that is highly specialized. The Oncology Externship was created to provide select Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Students (ACNP) the opportunity to be exposed to all areas of oncology care. Clinical based experiences and education go beyond the primary oncology care taught in school. The purpose of this project was to describe a three-semester program focused on oncology and oncologic education for ACNP students. The Oncology Externship was created to provide specific oncology clinical education and experience as part of graduate education. The innovative program provides APP students with direct clinical experience in areas of oncology, hematology, surgical oncology, radiation oncology, survivorship, emergency oncology care and palliative oncology. The Externship also provides supplemental education around oncology care in the form of didactic, observation experiences, and oncology conferences. Participants rotate through five clinical areas over the course of three semesters, 600 clinical hours. During the externship, the students gain an elevated oncology exposure that enables them to enter the workforce with enhanced knowledge for practice. This program was created in 2020, in its initial year four students were accepted, three students completed the externship. All three of these students then applied to an oncology specific fellowship program and were accepted. Due to their experience from