

Summary of Meeting #2 (8/6/2014)

Dr. Gahunia, DHMH Chief Medical Officer, opened with a summary of meeting one. She reminded the group of their consensus that uniform minimum standards in the areas of accurate dosing/administration, infection control, and handling of hazardous drugs are needed. The remainder of the meeting consisted of presentations and discussion.

NIOSH/CDC

- Dr. Thomas Connor, Research Biologist at NIOSH Division of Applied Research and Technology, and Dr. Ken Mead, Senior Research Engineer at NIOSH Division of Applied Research and Technology, reviewed key parts of the NIOSH Alert, the engineering control requirements, and the science behind medical surveillance.
- Discussion focused on the science and evidence of employee exposure to hazardous drugs. Dr. Connor emphasized that the risk of exposure depends on how the drug is handled.
- Discussion also focused on the evidence of hazardous drug contamination of workplace when proper engineering controls are followed.

Provider Presentation

- Dr. Ted Lee and Dr. David Smith presented on the barriers to implementing different safety standards.
- A major barrier discussed included the difficulty in making large-scale structural changes to workplaces. Many outpatient oncologists lease space and have landlords. They emphasized that expensive changes may result in community-based oncologists closing their practices.
- Dr. David Smith, who provides care on the Eastern Shore, shared his experience when outpatient oncology practices have closed in rural areas. As a result of the closure of an outpatient oncology practice on the Eastern Shore, one-third of patients did not get their care.

What Other States Are Doing

- Dr. Celeste Lombardi of the Board of Physicians, and residents from the MSHP presented on other states' regulations primarily with regard to hazardous drugs and handling of sterile preparations.
- Dr. Lombardi also discussed closed system transfer devices as a reasonable alternative to more advanced engineering controls.

Next Meeting (8/6/2014):

- Review the safety standards introduced to the workgroup in Meeting One for the first two areas, appropriate dosing/administration and infection control:
 - ASCO-ONS Standards for Safe Chemotherapy Administration (2013 update)
 - ASHP Guidelines on Handling Hazardous Drugs

- CDC Basic Infection Control and Prevention Plan for Outpatient Oncology Settings
- Send your recommendations on what standards should be included in the areas of infection control and accurate dosing of chemotherapy by **Wednesday August 29th** to sara.cherico@maryland.gov.
- The group will come to consensus on recommendations in the areas of infection control and accurate dosing of chemotherapy.
- At a subsequent meeting we will address handling of hazardous drugs in an identical fashion.
- Continue to work on how to tailor these recommendations for rheumatology practices. Another rheumatologist has been recruited to join the group.