



Singapore Healthcare Management 2018

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Johnson & Johnson

VELCADE® @ HOME

BACKGROUND

Multiple myeloma is a cancer that arises from abnormality of plasma cells in the bone marrow, which can lead to more severe medical complications such as recurrent infections (eg. pneumonia), bone fractures, kidney failures and anemia.

VELCADE® is used for the treatment of multiple myeloma and is administered once or twice a week with four injections per treatment cycle. Due to the nature of treatment, patients are required to make frequent visits to hospitals.

The burden of travel can cause inconvenience to patients and caretakers who have to be absent from work to accompany patients to hospitals. In addition, preparation, travel and waiting time to see the doctor can easily amount to a few hours.

VELCADE® @ Home is the first of its kind treatment delivery for cancer patients. With this innovative treatment delivery, hospitals are able to provide treatment accessibility to patients "Beyond Hospital To Community", aligned with the Ministry of Health's Healthcare 2020 Vision.

METHODOLOGY

Johnson & Johnson partnered with the National University Cancer Institute Singapore (NCIS) and Singapore General Hospital (SGH) to provide home administration to multiple myeloma patients through the homecare team. Home administration starts from the second cycle where patients can have their VELCADE® injections done up to 3 times at home per cycle. A nurse will contact the patient on the same day of administering the injection.

Building An Effective Partnership Model:

- Both parties build upon the common vision of doing what is best for the patient
- Through various discussions, both parties decided to explore homecare for VELCADE® patients
- The NCIS and SGH homecare team administers VELCADE® @ Home for patients and Johnson & Johnson subsidizes the cost of transport of the homecare team

Open Discussion on Operational Challenges:

- Both parties dedicated time discussing various implementation details of the project, particularly relating to optimal delivery of the treatment to the patients and at the patients' homes

BENEFITS/ ACHIEVEMENT

HELPING
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SINGAPORE - When she was first diagnosed with a type of bone marrow cancer called multiple myeloma in 2011, Madam Minah Ibrahim would spend almost a day each week travelling to the National University Hospital (NUH) for chemotherapy. The hour-long session would leave her fatigued for the rest of the day.

The 60-year-old mother of a teenager early this year, and the hospital suggested home chemotherapy, which her daughter readily accepted.

"I was immediately attracted to the idea that treatment could be done within our comfort zone - especially by me that my mother is no longer so energetic as she was five years ago," said Ms Syaida Abdul Rahman, Minah's primary caregiver.

Now, for about 45 minutes each week, Minah receives a nurse in her home in Toek Joo Lane.

The nurse administers an injection of bortomizomib - a drug commonly used for treating myeloma patients with kidney problems - and assesses her vital signs and answers any queries Minah and Ms Syaida have.

Minah now goes to the hospital only once a month for reviews.

Home chemotherapy has "saved us the effort of moving her into the wheelchair each time to go to the hospital," said Ms Syaida.

Chemo at home helps cancer patients cut disruptions to daily life



Current adoption rate of Velcade® at home:

- 70 patients in SGH
- 50 patients in NCIS

BENEFITS TO PATIENTS



Huge reduction in travel time

Patients and caretakers do not have to endure traffic conditions to travel to hospitals for treatment



Reduced waiting time

Patients no longer need to queue or wait to see the doctor; waiting time is essentially minimized or eliminated



Reduced risk of contracting diseases

Risks of contracting airborne infectious diseases in the hospital is reduced, especially for patients with low immunity, thus improving overall patient outcomes



Improved living environment

Nurses are able to assess patients' living conditions and thus identify and mitigate potential health risks

BENEFITS TO HOSPITALS:



Increased capacity

By moving treatment delivery away from hospitals, there is additional capacity in hospitals to deliver greater value and serve more patients



Increased patient satisfaction

Patients receive an excellent standard of care with increased convenience, improved health outcomes and overall higher patient satisfaction

SPREAD & SCALABILITY

Aligned with the Ministry's vision of bringing care to the community, VELCADE® @ Home is an innovative model for the delivery of treatment to cancer patients in their homes.

Johnson & Johnson will continue working closely with NCIS and SGH to explore similar care delivery models for other therapeutic areas to benefit patients further.