



Multipronged Approach to Right - Site Care for Cancer Patients receiving Subcutaneous GCSF injections

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Introduction

- Subcutaneous Granulocyte Colony Stimulating Factor (GCSF) is a growth factor given to boost white blood cells recovery post chemotherapy.
- The injections can be taught to patients/caregiver for self-administration at home.
- However, most cancer patients prefer to return to the Ambulatory Cancer Centre for the injections.

Problem

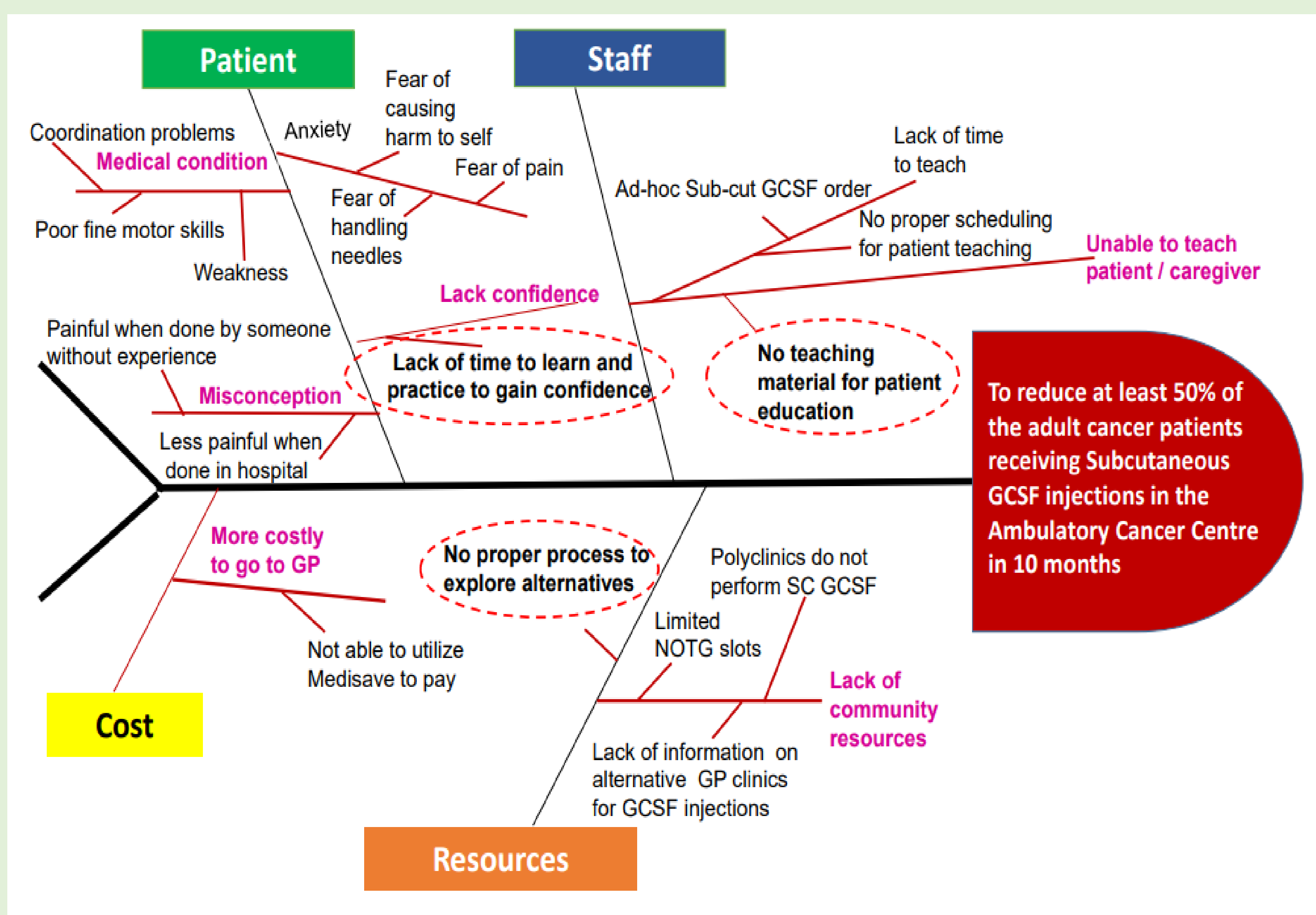
- [N=1001] cancer patients received SC GCSF injections at the Ambulatory Cancer Centre from January 2019 to October 2019.
- It led to long wait time, increased workload, competition for chemotherapy treatment slots and inefficiencies in resource utilization.
- To mitigate the situation, an initiative was introduced to right-site treatment by encouraging uptake for self-administration at home or referral to the General Practitioner (GP) clinic.

Aim

To reduce at least 50% of the adult cancer patients receiving Subcutaneous GCSF injections in the Ambulatory Cancer Centre in 10 months through right-siting of care.

Method

- Barriers were identified using the Ishikawa diagram.



- The top three reasons cited were:

1) No established process to explore alternatives to receive SC GCSF injections

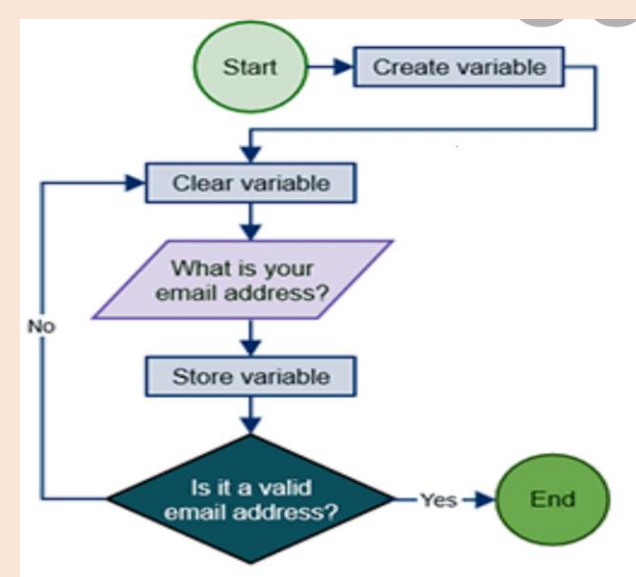
2) Lack of time for patients/ caregivers to gain confidence to administer SC injections at home

3) Lack of standardized & updated training resources

Targeted Interventions – a multipronged approach

1) No established process to explore alternatives to receive SC GCSF injections

- Develop an algorithm to explore alternatives for SC administration of injections.
- Develop a standard GP referral letter.



2) Lack of time for patients/ caregivers to gain confidence to administer injections

- Collaborate with physicians to refer patients/ caregivers early.
- Commence education earliest possible.



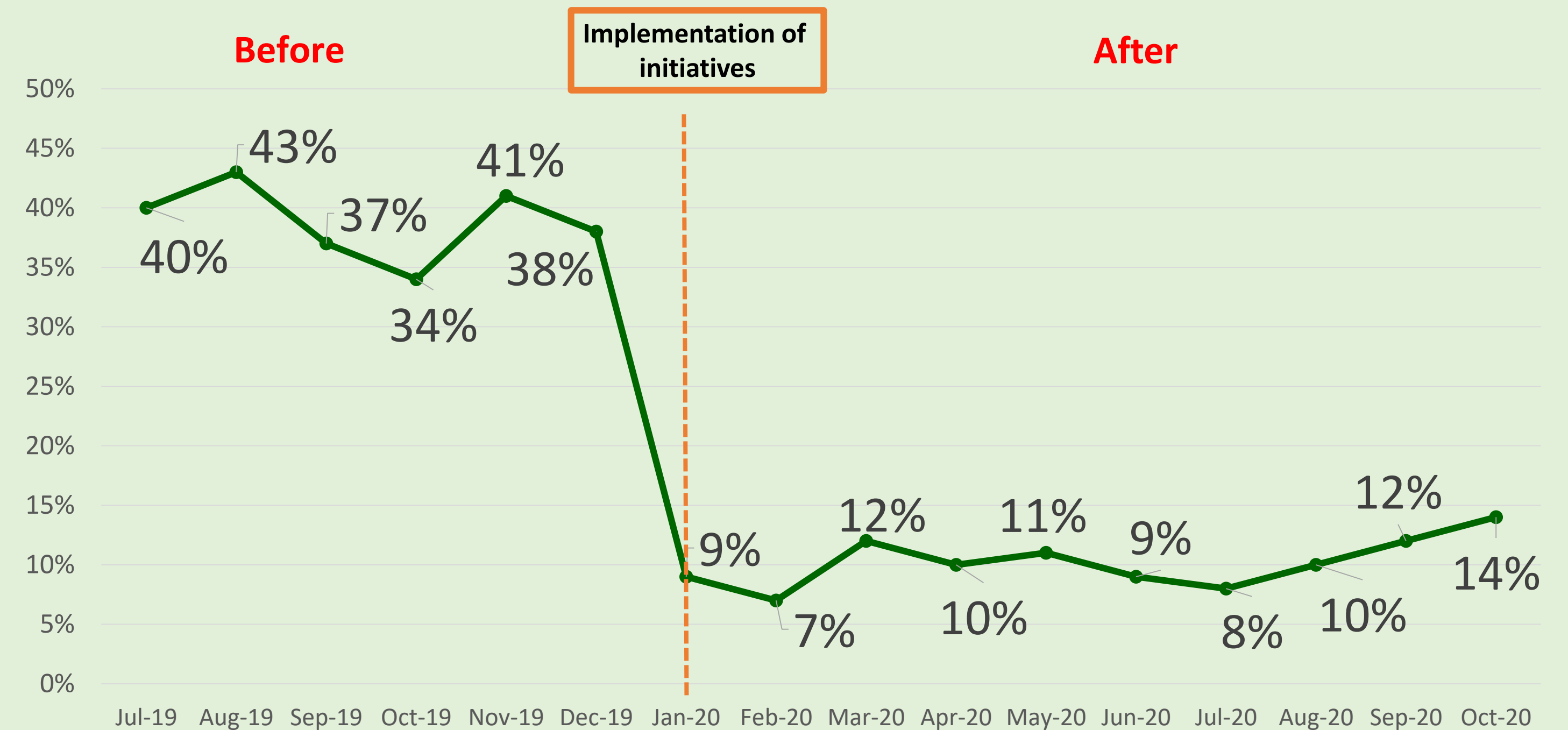
3) Lack of standardized & updated training resources

- Utilize standardized education materials with video links.
- Organize patient training kit for return demonstration.



Results

Percentage of patients received SC GCSF injections in Ambulatory Cancer Centre



Special note:

1. During Covid-19 period, there were no changes to SC GCSF injection practice/processes.
2. The total number of patients who require SC GCSF injection per month remained about the same before and during Covid-19.

Organization benefits

- ✓ An average of 65% reduction in patients receiving injection at Cancer Centre.
- ✓ Freed up treatment slots, improved patient experience.

Patient benefits

- ✓ Reduced hospital visits, waiting time for injections and time saved from travelling to the hospital.
- ✓ Patients feel empowered to perform self care at home.
- ✓ Convenient to have injection performed at home or nearer to home (nearest GP clinic).

Conclusion

- Right-siting is safe, convenient and improves utilization of resources.
- Patients also feel empowered and require less trips to hospital.
- Cancer Centre to extend these initiatives to other SC non-cytotoxic drugs.