

Medication errors involving oral chemotherapy.

July 23, 2014

Weingart SN, Toro J, Spencer J, et al. Medication errors involving oral chemotherapy. *Cancer*. 2010;116(10):2455-2464. doi:10.1002/cncr.25027.

<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/medication-errors-involving-oral-chemotherapy>

Widely [publicized](#) errors associated with chemotherapy catalyzed extensive efforts to [improve safety](#) for patients receiving traditional intravenous chemotherapy. However, an increasing number of cancer patients are prescribed oral chemotherapy, and a [prior study](#) found that most cancer centers lack formal safety protocols for these medications. This AHRQ-funded analysis used multiple data sources to identify and characterize oral chemotherapy medication errors, and found that most errors resulted from dispensing incorrect dosages or medications—similar to [prior studies](#) of outpatient chemotherapy errors. The authors conclude that standardized safety practices for oral chemotherapy are urgently needed.