Immuno-Oncology in the Community Setting: Coordination of Care

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Financial Disclosures

• I do not currently have any relevant financial relationships to disclose
Off-Label Use Disclosures

• I do not intend to discuss off-label uses of products during this activity.
Objectives

Brief overview of care coordination and considerations for I-O patients in the community setting.

• Role of Immunotherapy coordinator
• Patient selection
• Access to I-O agents
• Financial concerns/reimbursement
• Staff and patient teaching
• Adverse event monitoring in the community setting.
Immunotherapy Coordinator

• Primary contact for patients.
• Organize and pre-screen patients for I-O regimens.
• Connect patients with Financial Advocate for early billing explanation/intervention.
• Coordinate patient care including follow up, tests/procedures, consultations.
• Educate staff and patients on potential adverse events and irAE’s for timely intervention.

Immuno-Oncology Patients: Screening Considerations

• Patient interview and review of medical record for pre-existing conditions, or prior adverse events.
• Communicate screening concerns to treating physician.
• Use caution when patients present with pre-existing conditions and/or prior adverse events.

Access to Immuno-Oncology Agents

Several barriers to accessing I-O agents:

• Low patient volumes.
• P&T committee approval.
• I-O agent cost.
Coordinating Financial Concerns

• Third party payers
  – Pre-determination
• Medicare/Medicaid
  – No pre-determination
• Financial Counseling
  – Address concerns early to avoid unnecessary worry for the patient.
  – Discuss out of pocket costs.
  – Utilize assistance programs

Patient Education on Adverse Events

- Ongoing patient and caregiver teaching.
- Wallet cards and/or symptom logs.
- Encourage accurate reporting of adverse events.

Staff Education on Adverse Events

- Education should include:
  - Office Staff-Triage.
  - RN Education.
  - Advanced Practice Nurses or Physician Assistants.
- Adverse event treatment algorithms.
- Late appearing side effects


Care Coordination Between Treatment

Important to stress communication between treatments or after treatment.

- Regular follow-up phone calls by clinic staff to assess for irAE’s.
- If irAE’s are being experienced daily phone calls to track severity of symptoms.
- Monitor response to medications.
- Increase frequency of laboratory monitoring and/or office visits to assess irAE’s.
- Instruct patient to visit emergency department if adverse event is high-grade/life threatening.


Care Coordination for Travel

Proactive management prior to patient’s travel plans:

- Patients should bring education/side-effect materials with them.
- Confirm patient has contact information for treating physician.
- Write prescriptions in advance.
- Encourage patient to research nearby hospitals and emergency departments.
- Instruct patient to go to emergency department if adverse events are not controlled.

Care Coordination After Treatment

- Encourage patient to keep long-term follow-up appointments.
- Assess for new irAE’s at long-term follow-up visits.
- Continue assessment and management of chronic irAE’s.
- Consider survivorship issues associated with long-term irAE’s.


References


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