**Problem Statement**

**Key Goal:** Reduce patient waiting time by mixing chemotherapy drugs before patients arrive in the system or at earlier stages in the process.

**Motivation:**
- Long patient waiting times for drugs to be mixed
- High cost of wasted drugs for patients who fail to show up or are deferred
- High variability in pharmacy workload during the day
  - Extremely busy during the afternoon
  - Slower pace during the morning

**Univ of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center (UMCCC)**

**Current Pre-mix Policy:**
- Will only mix drugs during a fixed window of time (6AM-8AM) before patients arrive
- Use a fixed list of drugs they are willing to pre-mix, based on cost and common use according to pharmacists' experience

**Oversights of Current Pre-mix Policy:**
- Does not take into account that different clinics operate on different days of the week
- Patients with similar or the same types of cancers receive similar or the same types of treatments

**Solution Approach**

**Solution:** Develop and implement a dynamic pre-mix template generator to update the fixed list that the UMCCC currently uses. This template accounts for different patient populations, drug costs, and mixing times on different days of the week.

**Dynamic Template Parameters:** The parameters of the dynamic template can be adjusted.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameters</th>
<th>Cost (willingness to expend to reduce wait time)</th>
<th>Demand (from historical data)</th>
<th>Mixing Time (from historical data)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Dynamic Template Testing:**
- Retrospectively compare actual pharmacy productivity with static pre-mix template vs. theoretical pharmacy productivity with dynamic pre-mix template
- Did applying the dynamic template save the UMCCC pharmacy time (by pre-mixing specific drugs) or money (by decreased waste pre-mixed drugs)?

**Process Flow**

- **Triage**
- Release & 1st Verification
- 2nd Verification & Assign DoseEdge Kit
- Print Labels & Assemble Kit
- Compound Drug
- Sorting & Safety Check
- Same Day Order
- Pre-released Order
- Pre-mixed Order

**What is Pre-mixed?**
- A drug is considered pre-mixed if it is made before any patient is deemed ready to receive it
- Pharmacies tend not to pre-mix drugs due to risk in wastage cost
- Currently, pre-mixable drugs must meet strict criteria:
  1. relatively cheap,
  2. highly prescribed, and
  3. stable after mixing

**Current State:** UMCCC Pharmacy pre-mixing policy doesn’t minimize the patient waiting time.

**Solution:** Implement a dynamic pre-mix template may decrease wait times, waste costs, and pharmacy workload variability via recommendations of currently unconsidered drugs (e.g., during preliminary analysis, Bortezomib and Oxaliplatin were both shown to be in high demand).

**Impact/Results**

**Template Comparison: The Percentage of Drugs Pre-mixed**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Number of Drugs Pre-mixed</th>
<th>UMCCC Template</th>
<th>Dynamic Template</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>73</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>+23</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Time Saved (hrs)</td>
<td>24.4</td>
<td>29.2</td>
<td>+5.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waste Cost ($130.27)</td>
<td>$89.38</td>
<td>-$40.89</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conclusion**

- We show our proposed template reduces both patient waiting time and pharmacy waste costs from Table 3
- Our pre-mix template varies by day of week since providers change by day of week (the provider type or specialty is correlated with the drug demand)
- We propose updating the template on a 6-month to yearly basis to address shifting patient populations
- There is potential to reduce costs further once we include patient probability of deferral

**Acknowledgements**

This research is generously supported by the Center for Healthcare Engineering and Patient Safety (CHEPS) and the Seth Bonder Foundation. Special thanks to our collaborators at the University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center, especially Carolina Typaldos, Vincent LaRocca, and Anna Kempke. We also thank the entire CHEPS Chemotherapy Project team.