DEVI MILLIGAN, RN, BSCN, CON(C)

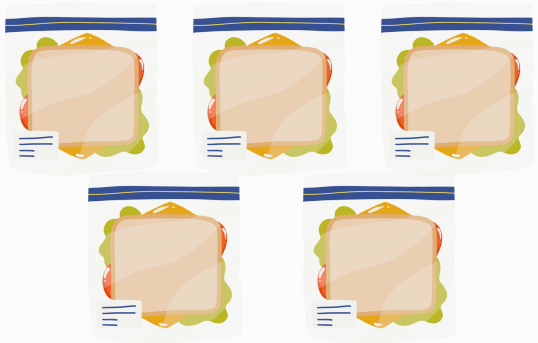
FROM PLASTIC TO FANTASTIC: REDUCING SINGLE-USE ZIPLOCK BAGS AT BC CANCER

HAZARDOUS MEDICATIONS MUST BE TRANSPORTED APPROPRIATELY THROUGH PUBLIC AREAS. IN PRINCE GEORGE, SYSTEMIC THERAPY MEDICATIONS ARE TRIPLE-WRAPPED, USING DOUBLE-BAGGING AND A REUSABLE PLASTIC BOX, WHICH EXCEEDS REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS AND CREATES UNNECESSARY WASTE. THESE BAGS ARE CONSIDERED HAZARDOUS, AND THEREFORE MUST THEN BE INCINERATED, WHICH PRODUCES 30X MORE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS THAN OTHER WASTE PROCESSING METHODS.

GOAL

To permanently stop using a second ziplock bag to wrap systemic therapy medications going to the chemo unit by December, 2024

Prior to project implementation, Centre for the North used approximately 70 2nd ziplock bags per week - or **3666 per year**. That's enough to feed a school child a bagged sandwich for 19.3 years of education

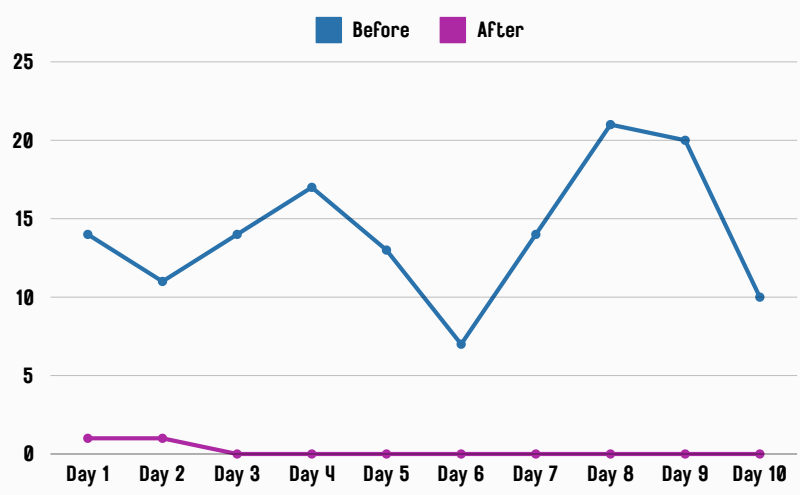


METHODS

practice standards education for transporting hazardous materials

recording # of bins coming from pharmacy to chemo unit

reminders and check-ins with pharmacy techs and nursing post implementation



# of 2nd bags used to wrap medications

OUTCOMES

Financial: Reduced costs for bags, waste containers, and incineration

Environmental: Less plastic waste, incineration and GHG emissions

Psychological: Boosted staff morale and satisfaction from supporting environmental goals

Time: Faster workflow.

Strain: Less repetitive strain

Education/Networking: increased planetary health awareness and strengthened team connections.

NEXT STEPS

Continue raising awareness about planetary health principles and this internship

Meet for community of practice meetings

Share this information with others

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