

## The Cost-Saving Effect of a Centralized Unit for Anticancer Drugs Processing at the Oncology Department of Tirana

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### Abstract

The worldwide increase in cancer prevalence has led to a substantial cost rising in Medical Oncology. Of particular importance are highly expensive drugs used to treat various types of cancers in developing countries like Albania. Hence, pharmacoeconomics may play an important role in reducing the drug wastage and financial burden placed on patients, family and society in general; of course, without adversely impacting patient's health outcomes. Our aim was to calculate cost-savings effect of a centralized unit, which allows residual amounts of unused drugs to be reused by patients whose treatments are elaborated in the same working day. We calculated in a comprehensive manner the number of saved vials (flasks) for seven drugs generated from residual amounts of the same working day and, converted them into cost-saving monetary value. We did not take into account prescribed drug dosages that fitted exactly with doses contained in a vial. Over a six month period, there were: a total of 6558 prescriptions for a total of 1180 patients, a total of 1524 saved vials and, a total cost-saving of 134,348 (•). The saved value represents 6.2 percent of the cytostatic drugs budget for 2005. Our experience confirms the economic benefit of waste reduction and cost-savings effect due to a centralized unit of anticancer drug processing. The centralized unit increases also the drug traceability from preparation to patient.

**Keywords:** centralized unit, anticancer drug processing, cost savings, drug traceability.

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