



National Results of Utilizing the NCODA Cost Avoidance and Waste Tracker Tool: An Online Method of Identifying and Preventing Drug Waste

Austin Starkey, PharmD, MBA

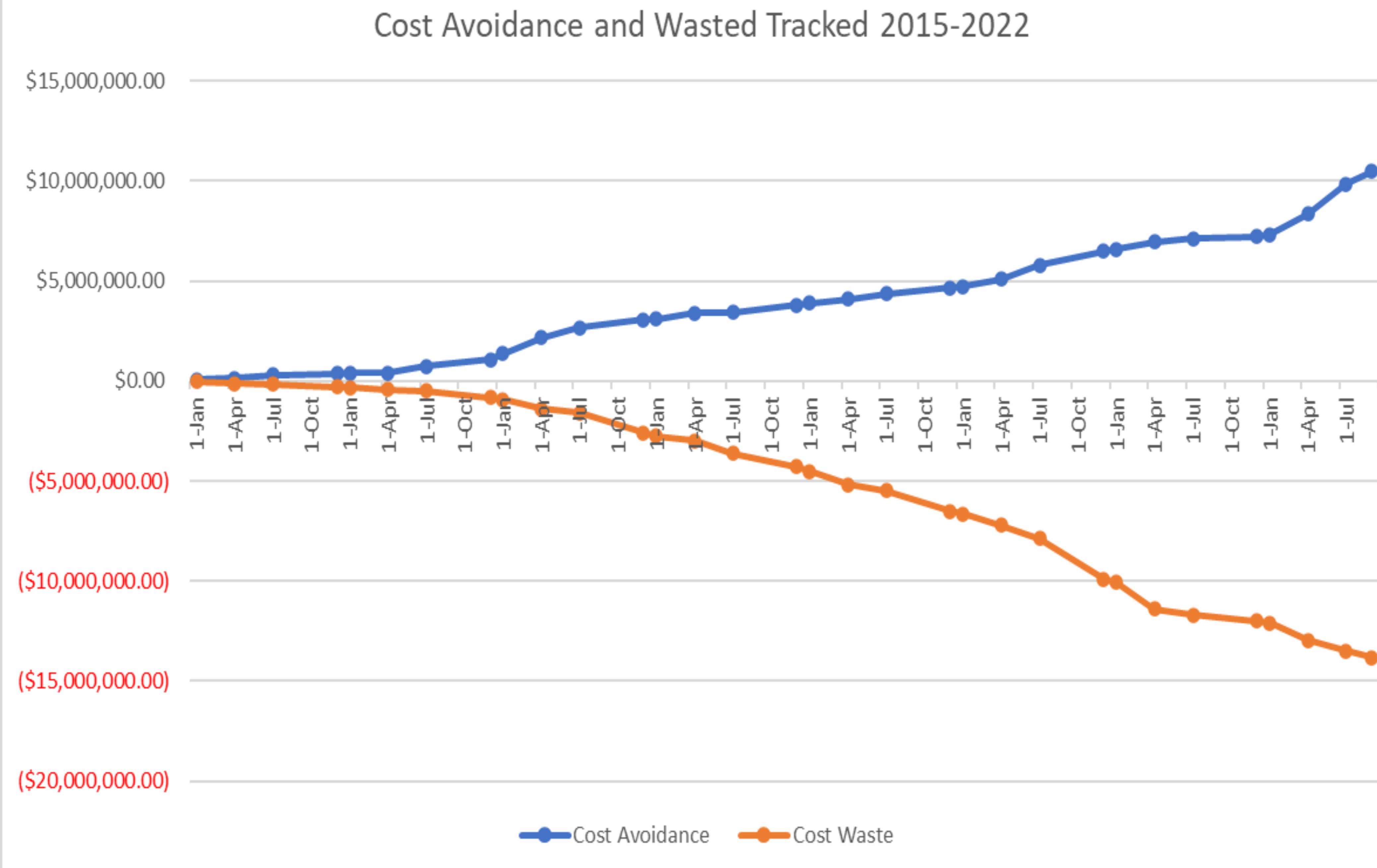
Background

- Quality care within oral oncology dispensing through medically integrated pharmacies (MIP) create proactive interventions which can be significantly impactful but often go unmeasured. MIPs strive to function within the Oncology Care Model by improving quality of care and reducing costs through cost avoidance interventions.
- NCODA sought to measure cost avoidance within an MIP versus the waste produced when prescriptions are sent to outside pharmacies. NCODA created a web-tool known as the Cost Avoidance/Waste Tracker (CAWT) that was made available to the NCODA membership to assist in quantifying this form of positive intervention, improved patient convenience, and satisfaction.

Methods

- A cost analysis of medication costs from voluntary data entries provided by NCODA member practices across the United States from 2015-2022 was performed. Monetary outcomes were calculated using the NCODA CAWT tool which utilizes average wholesale price (AWP).
- A total of 1,967 eligible data entries were included for analysis. Cost avoidance was defined as interventions that are made, before a drug is dispensed to the patient, that preclude an unnecessary prescription from being filled and dispensed or any event in which a medication would have not been used by a patient had an intervention not occurred.
- Waste was defined as drugs that have been processed or prescriptions filled and then for any reason, the drug is not used by the patient.

Results



Cost Avoidance and Waste Tracker Tool

Form fields for the Cost Avoidance and Waste Tracker Tool:

- Date Medication Received/Intervention* (Input: yyyy-mm-dd)
- Dispensing Pharmacy* (Dropdown: SELECT... + Add New)
- Medication* (Dropdown: SELECT... High cost medication listed only.)
- Date Medication Dispensed (Input: yyyy-mm-dd)
- BIN (Dropdown: SELECT... + Add New)
- Expense Type* (Radio buttons: Waste, Cost Avoidance)
- Name of Practice* (Input: University of Montana)
- PBM (Dropdown: SELECT... + Add New)
- Reasons (Dropdown: SELECT...)
- Type* (Radio buttons: Medicare, Medicaid, Commercial, Patient Assistant Program (PAP))
- PBM Group (Input)
- Payer* (Input)
- PCN (Input)
- CALCULATE EXPENSE (Button)

Discussion

- Total cost avoidance amounted to nearly **\$10.4 million** in addition to **\$13.8 million** in total reported waste caused by mail order pharmacies. These numbers are a significant increase from the data in 2021 (approximately \$3.2 million and \$1.8 million, respectively).
- 50 different NCODA member practices across the United States submitted CAWT data.
- The approximated average amount of cost avoidance was \$10,430 per cost avoidance event recorded and \$14,680 per event recorded for waste produced from mail order distribution.

Conclusion

The results display a significant impact that MIDs have in cost avoidance interventions vs. the waste produced from other forms of oncology distribution and warrants further study to uncover the financial influence and positive change that MIDs can bring to the oncology marketplace.

For more information email Austin.starkey@ncoda.org