

Improving Patient Access and Adherence: The Role of an Electronic Health Record (EHR)-Embedded Clinical Decision Support (CDS) Tool in Specialty Drug Management

Jonas M. Congelli, RPh¹; Anna Bolha, MPAS, PA-C²; Rebecca Maniago, PharmD, BCOP²; Mandi Vena, PharmD, BCOP²; Marcello Ricottone²; Maneet Kaur, PhD, MPH²; Stephen Speicher, MD, MS²

¹Hematology-Oncology Associates of CNY, East Syracuse, NY; ²Flatiron Health Inc., New York, NY.

Background

- Specialty drugs account for over half of total pharmacy spending,¹ and oral cancer drugs make up the majority of this growing trend in both cost² and number of prescriptions³
- Oral cancer drugs are mostly dispensed from specialty pharmacies through open or limited distribution networks, which may restrict products that can be stocked by in-house pharmacies
- In-house pharmacy staff support the entire dispensing process because they can access the EHR, aid in prior authorization, and intervene promptly in dose changes,⁴ thus reducing errors and waste while improving safety, access, and adherence
- When clinical equipoise exists at the same or lower cost, in-house prescriptions can help cancer clinics recover otherwise unreimbursed costs of comprehensive care management
- Flatiron Assist (FA) is an EHR-embedded, customizable CDS tool that facilitates selection and documentation of National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) guideline-concordant, NCCN Preferred, and customized preferred treatment regimens
- This retrospective study aims to examine how custom local preferences in FA will impact prescription capture, a key component of comprehensive medication management

Methods

- Zanubrutinib, an oral tyrosine kinase inhibitor, was updated to a preferred treatment option with category 1 recommendation alongside acalabrutinib for naive or relapsed/refractory disease in the NCCN Guidelines® for chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) v1.2023
- Zanubrutinib is dispensed from the Hematology Oncology Associates of Central New York (HOACNY) in-house pharmacy, whereas acalabrutinib may be dispensed in-house or from a mail-order pharmacy
- In June 2023, zanubrutinib was labeled as “HOACNY Preferred” and ordering patterns in CLL from January 2022 to October 2024 were compared across oncologists at HOACNY
- Analysis included zanubrutinib and acalabrutinib, alone and in combination with obinutuzumab

Integrating custom preferences into the CDS tool increased specialty prescription capture, a foundational component of a comprehensive drug management program.

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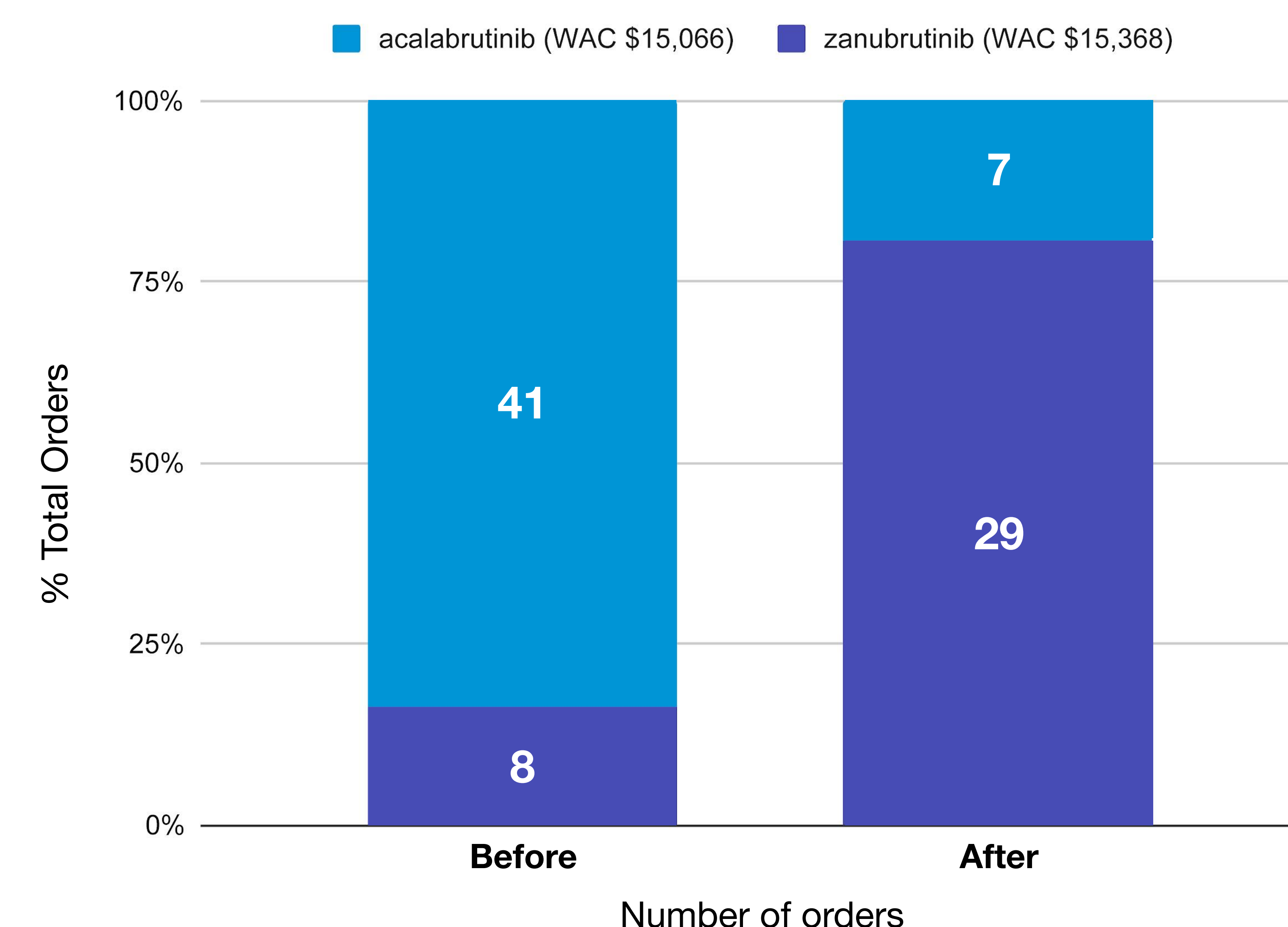
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DISCLOSURES

AB, RM, MV, MC, MK, SS report employment at Flatiron Health, which is an independent member of the Roche group, and stock ownership in Roche.

Results

Figure 1. Specialty Prescription Capture Before and After CDS-Embedded Preferences



Abbreviation: CDS, clinical decision support; WAC, wholesale acquisition cost.

Zanubrutinib prescriptions increased from 16% to 81% after 'HOACNY Preferred' labels were integrated into Flatiron Assist

Conclusions

EHR-embedded CDS tools enable success in value-based care initiatives, where managing drug trend and cost is a primary goal, by empowering clinicians with clinical and financial insights at the time of treatment decision.

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