

A Novel Scoring Framework to Analyze and Improve Access Pathways to Oral Oncology Therapies



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Background

Rising Use of Oral Oncology Therapies

Oral oncology agents have expanded treatment opportunities but also created new challenges with patient accessibility. Prompt initiation is critical, yet delays remain common.¹

Barriers to Timely Access

The absence of limited distribution networks, inconsistent manufacturer assistance criteria, financial barriers, and variable support programs often prolong start times, which can negatively impact patient outcomes.^{1,2} These challenges also make it increasingly difficult for practitioners to evaluate and ensure timely access to essential medications.

Addressing the Gap

At Moffitt Cancer Center Specialty Pharmacy, our team developed a scorecard framework to evaluate real-world accessibility of oral oncology therapies. This tool enables access-informed decision-making and promotes consistent measurement of manufacturer performance.

Figure 2: The panel shows each dimension a medication can be scored on, averaged to generate the overall score in Figure 1.



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Development

Design Principles

This scorecard was designed for **comparability, transparency, and transferability** across care settings: simple scoring, transparent criteria, and a display that lets teams spot barriers at a glance.

Scoring Logic (How It Works)

- Each drug is mapped to data inputs; scores are **averaged** into a **composite 1–5 overall score**.
- Color-coding** enhances interpretability:
 - Green 3.34–5 (high)**
 - Yellow 1.67–3.33 (moderate)**
 - Red 0–1.66 (low)**
- Drugs are grouped by **therapeutic class** to enable like-for-like comparison.

Visualization & Use

A compact scorecard shows the **overall score** (Figure 1) plus the **dimension panel** (Figure 2) so clinicians can quickly identify the more accessible option among therapies with similar efficacy—helping reduce financial toxicity and start-time delays.

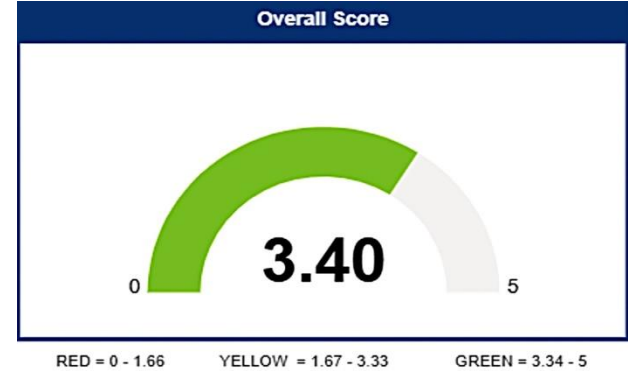


Figure 1: This illustrates a medication's overall score. Green indicates high accessibility, reflecting fewer barriers to patient treatment acquisition.

Data Inputs (What We Capture)

- Manufacturer Pricing
 - Contract Type
 - Discount Percentage
- Patient Accessibility
 - Patient-assistance program availability
 - Insurances accepted
 - FPL thresholds for eligibility
 - Restrictions on off-label use
 - Additional support programs

Impact

Adaptable across institutions: The scorecard was built to flex across diverse oncology care environments, whether it be oral or infusion therapies and varying clinic settings, due to non-site specific and customizable categories.

Clinical utility: Helps clinicians quickly compare therapies with similar efficacy, highlighting which oncology agents are more accessible and cost effective.

Discussion

Broader applicability: Framework can expand to other specialties and institutions (neurology, rheumatology, ID) where specialty drugs face similar access barriers.

Validation: Next steps include testing **inter-rater reliability** and assessing **predictive value** for treatment initiation timelines.

Collaboration: Cross-institutional use will enable **standardization, benchmarking, and shared best practices**.

Integration: Embedding into **EHRs and clinical decision support systems** could provide **real-time prescribing guidance** without disrupting workflow.

Reference(s)

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