

eChemotherapy Advisory Group (eCAG): Safe, Collaborative & Quality Governance for WSLHD eChemo

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BACKGROUND

Although e-prescribing enhances cancer-medication-management (CMM) safety, recent Australian incidents highlighted adverse patient outcomes despite the availability of such system.¹ National quality and safety standards recommend robust clinical governance frameworks are established around CMM. Phased-implementation of an e-prescribing system within our district included the creation of an effective governance body.

AIMS

To establish a multi-disciplinary, cross-district governance mechanism capable of delivering high quality, safe and sustainable implementation, maintenance and monitoring processes for evidence-based-protocols (EBPs) within e-chemo system.

Develop and define governance standards for assessment and approval of 'local' EBPs for the database. To implement system monitoring tools enabling early detection of modifications and pathways for investigation and escalation of clinically inappropriate protocol deviations.

METHODS

Stakeholder consultation was initiated to develop the governance framework and terms of reference. eCAG membership and leadership nominations were sought from relevant multidisciplinary expertise groups.

Process and form were developed for non-eviQ EBP protocol submission by clinicians, key criteria for local approval and database inclusion were defined.

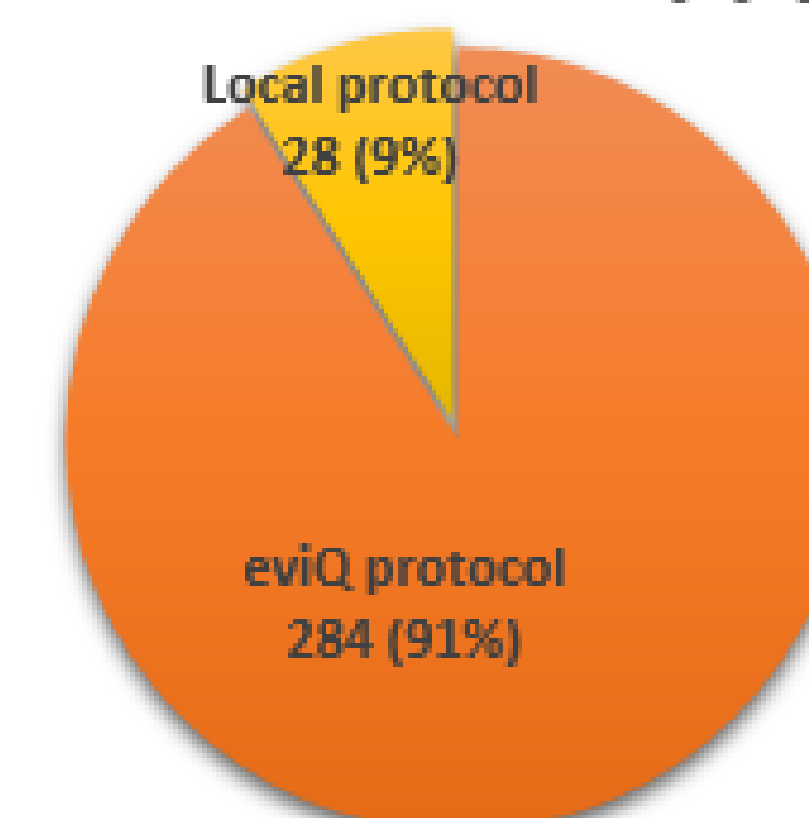
Parameters were developed and tested for an automated report to identify protocol modifications. Structured processes were outlined for eCAG membership to investigate and assess appropriateness of these modifications, including pathways for escalation and action on inappropriate deviations.

RESULTS

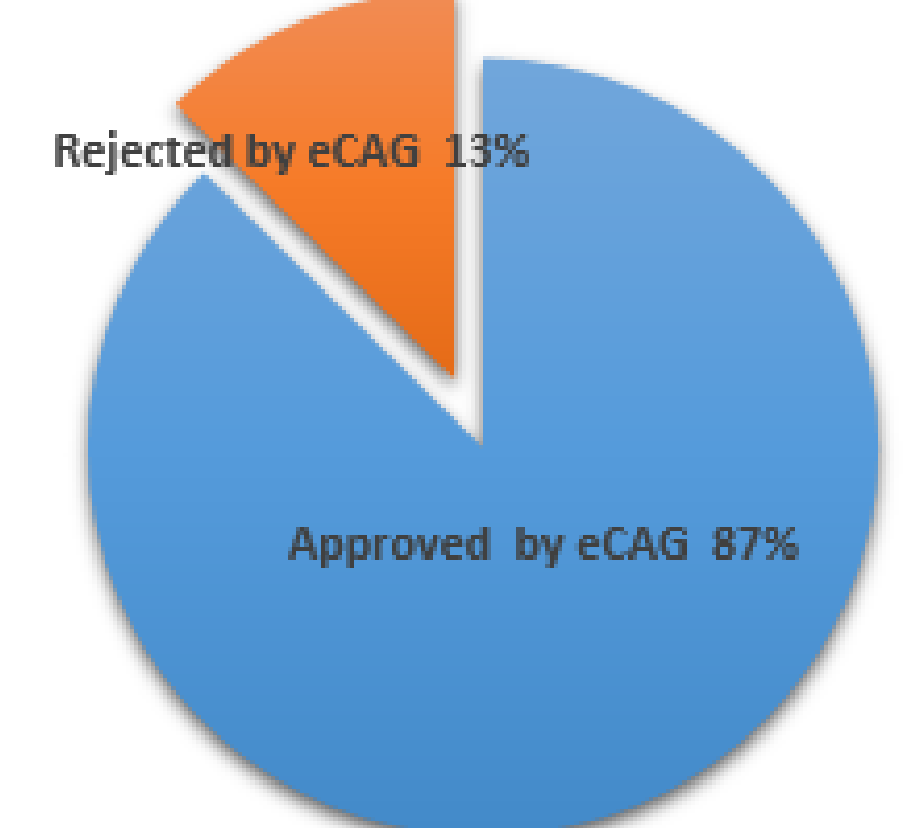
The eCAG was established in Feb 2019 with multidisciplinary membership. Data-quality framework development, database-management, service-improvement, risk-management, reporting, monitoring, clinical stakeholder engagement & communication activities were undertaken.

Formalised processes for local protocol submission were implemented. 28 out of 32 protocols (87%) were approved by the eCAG. No off-protocol deviations were detected between Mar-Aug 2019.

No. of eChemotherapy protocol



Local protocol submission



CONCLUSION:

eCAG ensures eChemo database protocols are current, evidence-based and being used appropriately. Monitoring clinical-use and initiating timely investigation/escalation of detected deviations positively impact safety, quality and sustainability of e-chemotherapy.

eCAG's robust governance framework complies with National standards and facilitates quality-assurance processes and e-chemotherapy practice improvements.