



## CENTRALIZED PREPARATION OF METHOTREXATE SYRINGES: A COST CONTROL OPTION BETWEEN PRIMARY CARE PHARMACY AND HOSPITAL PHARMACY.

Poquet-Jornet JE, Munilla-Das A, Santos-Ramirez C, Trenor-Gomis C, Cuesta-Grueso C, Sanchez-Aranda S.  
Pharmacy Department. Rheumatology Service. Health Department of Denia.






### OBJECTIVE

Our aim was develop a collaboration program between the Hospital Pharmacy Department and Primary Health Care to guarantee a safe procedure, suitability of prescriptions, adherence to treatment, an appropriate waste management and a saving opportunity.

### METHODS

- From February 2011 to August 2013, all the medical charts of rheumatologic patients with subcutaneous methotrexate were reviewed and prescriptions were validated.
- Pharmacy Department carried out the preparation and labelling of the syringes in a cytostatic safety cabinet and the department courier service distributed them to all Primary Health Care clinics.
- Every office was provided with cytostatic waste bins.

### RESULTS

- Hospital pharmacist validated prescriptions for 147 different patients (medium: 68.4 patients/month).
- During the study period  8434 syringes were prepared  
918 doses (10.8 %) were individualized doses.
- Average cost of commercialized syringe  26 Euros.
- Theoretical cost with commercialized syringe  227420 Euros.
- Real cost of the 3655 vials of methotrexate used  4898 Euros.
- Cost of technician pharmacy for preparing syringes  2508 Euros.
- This program offer an estimated budget saving for the Health Department of 220014 Euros.

### DISCUSSION

- Many rheumatologic patients have a chronic treatment with low-dose subcutaneous methotrexate. Commercialized methotrexate syringes are available in limited dosages.
- There is evidence of health risks from reconstitution and handling of methotrexate vials at the specialist office or at Primary Health Care clinics.

### CONCLUSION

An important saving can be obtained with a central program of elaboration of methotrexate syringes for all the patients of Health Department.