

A STRATEGY TO PREVENT WEEKLY METHOTREXATE MEDICATION MISTAKES IN A REGIONAL HEALTH SERVICE

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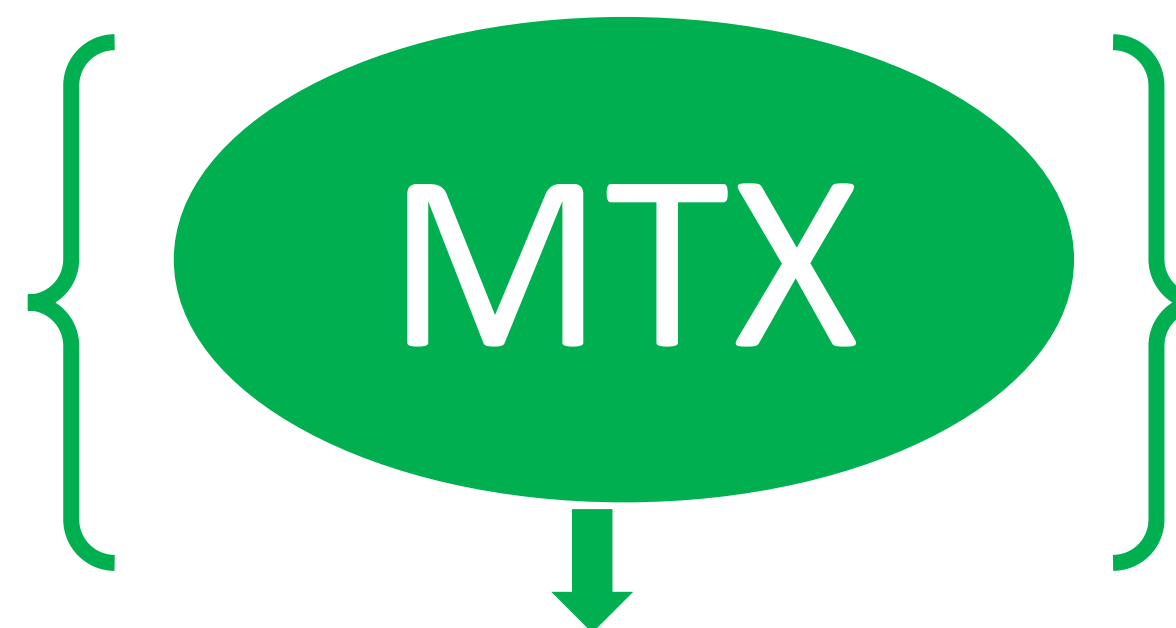
What was done?

An integral strategy to ensure the **correct prescribing of weekly Methotrexate (MTX)** was developed in a Regional Health Service (RHS).



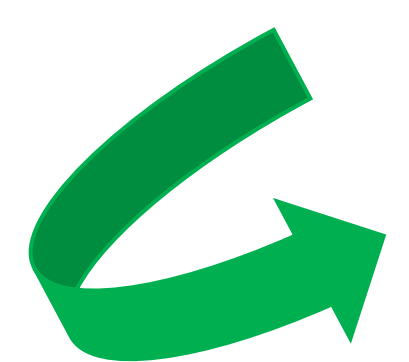
Why was it done?

Immunosupresor drug utilised in certain types of cancer and inflammatory diseases.



Its dosage and frequency of administration varies depending on indication.

Throughout the years, medication errors have been reported at national and supranational levels where patients have received excessive doses (the most common being daily administration of the drug rather than weekly) with severe consequences for the patients, including death.



In our RHS, 222 medication errors related to MTX have been reported in the last 5 years, 7 of them resulted in harm to the patient.

How was it done?

1st PHASE (May 2021)

- ✓ Monthly reporting to prescriber of their patients affected by duplicated prescriptions or incorrect dosing instructions for review and amending. These reports are available on the IT platform that collates prescribing indicators.
- ✓ Development and dissemination of training materials to correctly prescribe medications with non-daily dosing instructions in the RHS electronic prescription tool.



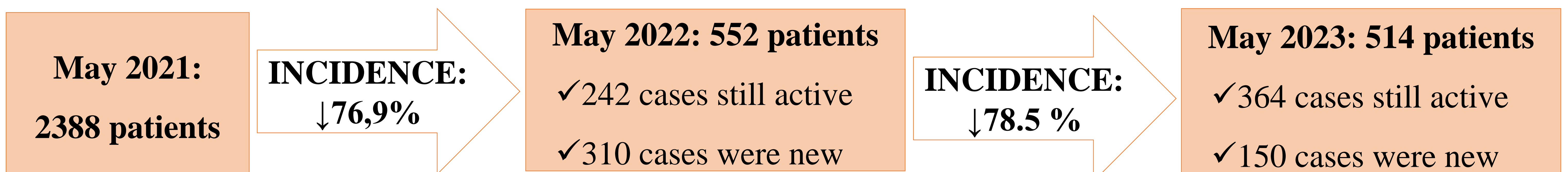
2nd PHASE (After two years of follow-up)

- ✓ Request to implement medication errors prevention plans to the hospitals of the RHS.
- ✓ Creation and dissemination of informative material for patients and/or caregivers, where the weekly dosing instructions is emphasized.



What has been achieved?

Incidence of MTX prescribing mistakes: When this strategy was implemented, prescriptions for 2388 patients had been identified as potential mistakes.



Medication errors prevention plans implantation (2nd PHASE):

- ❖ In two months, 6 hospitals (17.6% of all) implemented a medication errors prevention plan.
- ❖ The key strategies that should be included in the medication errors prevention plans were disseminated to all hospitals by our team.

What next?

Thanks to this strategy, MTX prescribing mistakes have fallen by 78.5% in two years. However, prescribing mistakes continue to be made, which demonstrates the **need for continuous training and awareness raising among prescribers to prevent ME related to MTX.**

