Abstract:

OBJECTIVE: To determine the necessary components and formatting of an intravenous chemotherapy label to maximize safe delivery and minimize errors. Date sources. The MEDLINE and EMBASE databases (up to April 2009) were searched for relevant evidence. Reference lists from retained studies were then searched for additional trials. An environmental scan was also conducted to locate other published and unpublished sources of information. Study selection. Relevant articles were selected and reviewed by one methodologist. Articles were selected for inclusion if they were published English language reports of Phases II or III randomized controlled trials, other comparative studies, single-arm studies, practice guidelines, or systematic reviews with or without meta-analyses, which related to the study question. MEDLINE and EMBASE searches yielded 685 potential studies of which 17 met the inclusion criteria. The environmental scan located one guideline. Three additional relevant studies were identified during the external review process. In total, 21 documents met the inclusion criteria. Data extraction. Data were extracted by one methodologist. Quality of systematic reviews was assessed using the AMSTAR tool. All other studies were evaluated based on study characteristics applicable to the particular study design. Data synthesis. The evidence collected and the consensus of expert opinion of Cancer
Care Ontario’s Chemotherapy Labeling Panel form the basis of a series of recommendations for the generation of intravenous chemotherapy labels including formatting, required information, and order of information. These guidelines inform the efficient, effective, and safe administration of intravenous chemotherapy. Illustrative examples are provided.

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