**Member Spotlight**

**Issue:** Improved oncology care management

**Roundtable member:** George Halvorson - Kaiser Permanente

**Project:** The Kaiser Permanente (KP) HealthConnect Oncology Beacon® Module

**Description:** The [KP HealthConnect Oncology Beacon® Module](#) supports high quality, evidence-based, safe care for all KP oncology patients across four regions. Beginning in 2005, a multi-region team decreased the number of Chemotherapy Protocols from 1,000 to 433 standardized templates—for orders, replications, fluids, rates of administration, and nursing notes—through an evidence review and consensus development process that vetted oncologists, pharmacists, and nurses from each region. The protocols for pediatric cancer patients were obtained with the full permission and support of the Children’s Oncology Group and transferred into the KP HealthConnect Oncology Beacon® Module by KP pediatric oncologists and pharmacists. In order to quickly modify KP’s standardized orders sets as evidence evolves and emerges, oncologists also have organized themselves into groups to review the latest evidence emerging from cancer journals and important conferences.

**Results to date:** Program achievements include:

- 84% or higher adherence to evidence-based templates across regions
- 9% reduction in adverse events at the San Jose Medical Center (pilot site)
- 18% reduction in oncology nursing overtime (based on evaluation of 8 N. CA facilities)
- 48hr response time for notification of [leukemia drug (Mylotarg) recall](#), cessation of recalled drug use, and arrangement of alternative therapies in all Beacon live regions
- Increased capability to manage pharmacy and biotechnology resources and respond quickly to new knowledge about treatments or drug efficacy
- Rapid implementation of new protocols in response to changes in the evidence base (e.g., use of Avastin following changes in reported efficacy data from the American Society of Clinical Oncology)
- Growing database for treatment outcomes research

**Work ahead:** Alongside its continuous efforts to streamline oncology care management, the KP HealthConnect® health information system is also [improving the management of common/chronic conditions](#) such as diabetes and hypertension, reducing cardiac deaths, and increasing breast cancer screening. Because KP HealthConnect® includes comprehensive patient information, it helps caregivers [address multiple problems](#) and/or the provision of multiple services in a single visit, reducing the need for additional follow-up appointments. Moreover, by increasing the accessibility of patients’ electronic health records, KP HealthConnect® is [improving patient safety](#) and the overall effectiveness of care.