



Overview

The need

At a cancer centre in Canada, the clinical team deals with many types of chemotherapy, highly complex regimens and a large number of drug interactions in patients with several comorbidities. They needed a comprehensive source to turn to for more detailed information to support their oncology care decisions.

The solution

Clinical staff members at the cancer centre in Canada use IBM® Micromedex® from IBM Watson Health™ multiple times a day for more detailed information on off-label uses, adverse effects, drug interactions, clinical management, dosing and intravenous (IV) compatibility. They find accessing the relevant information is quick and easy, and the mobile apps provide access even when away from their computers.

The benefit

- IBM Micromedex can help clinicians minimise adverse effects for patients when used for drug interactions checking, with a clear, five-level warning system for interaction severity.
- The evidence-based IV compatibility and dosing information can help clinicians protect patient safety.
- Quick, easy access is designed to help improve clinical workflow efficiency.

Customer perspectives: Oncology

Oncology pharmacists explain how they use IBM Micromedex to help them make more informed treatment decisions and help protect patient safety

IBM Micromedex is designed to provide healthcare professionals comprehensive evidence they can use to support even their most complicated treatment decisions.

We recently spoke to two users of IBM Micromedex in a cancer centre in Canada—Pat Danyluk, BScPharm, Senior Oncology Pharmacist, and Kristine Wilson, BSP, Oncology Pharmacist, to hear first-hand how IBM Micromedex can benefit pharmacists, physicians, nurses and patients.

Detailed evidence about off-label uses and more

“When our product monographs are approved, they don’t have off-label information, so we use the off-label drug information in Micromedex all the time. We hardly ever do anything on-label.” – P. Danyluk

“The clinical management section is so useful, and the onset—other resources don’t give us information on how quick a drug interaction would occur. I also appreciate the mechanism section, to see the probable mechanism for the interaction.”
– K. Wilson

Fully referenced drug information to help support medication safety

“In our clinic, a lot of our pharmacists use Micromedex for drug interaction checking. It’s so easy to use, and can absolutely minimise adverse effects for patients. You can check multiple drug interactions. You can also add allergies in there. We like to print that off and discuss that information with the physician to help them make a decision based on the patient’s safety and care. We also double-check dosing on Micromedex as well, so having that information can protect patient safety.” – K. Wilson

“Quite often there is a big table in the product monograph that maybe came from the trial, and you can see the adverse effects all at a glance, and the percentage. I like that part of the product

monograph. When we’re interviewing a patient who has symptoms or issues, we go right to Micromedex and look at the adverse effects and see what could be causing the problem. And when you’re looking at an adverse effect, I like that there are references right within it, including the size of the study, for example.” – P. Danyluk

“Many of the nurses at the cancer centre come to the pharmacy and wonder if they can put two drugs in a Y-site and check IV compatibility. So we use Micromedex a lot for that, and it definitely protects patient safety.” – K. Wilson

Support for complex treatment decisions

“We deal with all types of chemotherapy; highly complex regimens, lots of drug interactions that we encounter with patients with several comorbidities. Micromedex gives us references for all the information it provides, so that if we do need to look into it further, we can pull up those references. It’s definitely in-depth and I feel like it supports us quite a lot.” – K. Wilson

“‘How to administer’ is a section we really appreciate. And when dealing with polypharmacy in cancer patients, the drug interactions tool in Micromedex is definitely the resource we’d go to. The rating system for the severity of the interactions is very helpful. And I like the detailed information about the interaction.” – P. Danyluk

“Micromedex provides such good information. It’s easy to follow. I use it multiple times a week, sometimes daily. Within the cancer centre, it’s used multiple times a day. It’s a great resource and we really appreciate the information it gives us in terms of drug interactions, dosing and IV compatibility.”

– K. Wilson

Designed for quick, easy access

“I like the way the information is listed. It’s easy to get to, easy to see what you want. And then, when you get into the specific information, there’s a lot of good detail. It definitely saves time.” – P. Danyluk

“The mobile app is quite handy. It’s nice to have that available for our phones. And sometimes we work in clinics with doctors, and we don’t always have a computer handy, so it’s nice that we’re able to look at information on the spot. It’s very quick and easy.” – K. Wilson

Get connected

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Solution components

IBM® Micromedex®

Recognised by the US Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) as a compendium for off-label uses for anti-cancer regimens,¹ IBM Micromedex provides evidence-based content for recommended or endorsed uses in specific diseases. Evidence-based content also includes:

- Summary of the pharmacologic characteristics of each drug or biological
- Information on off-label dosing
- Pre-specified published criteria for weighing evidence based on efficacy, strength of recommendation and strength of evidence
- Information about select drugs approved by Health Canada and the EMA
- Drug interactions tool also includes select drugs approved by the National Health Surveillance Agency in Brazil

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Each day, professionals throughout the health ecosystem make powerful progress toward a healthier future. At IBM Watson Health, we help them remove obstacles, optimize efforts and reveal new insights to support the people they serve. Working across the landscape, from payers and providers to governments and life sciences, we bring together deep health expertise; proven innovation; and the power of artificial intelligence to enable our customers to uncover, connect and act — as they work to solve health challenges for people everywhere.

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