Purpose/Objectives: To describe current nursing practices in the United States regarding care and safety of patients taking oral chemotherapy.

Design: This three-phase study consisted of development, validation, and implementation of a national online survey.

Setting: Survey of oncology nurses in outpatient settings.

Sample: 577 oncology nurses.

Methods: Surveys were emailed to 5,000 members of the Oncology Nursing Society. The survey included 17 forced-choice items and one free-text item. Descriptive statistics and content analysis were obtained.

Main Research Variables: Patient care practices, nursing resources, and barriers to medication adherence.

Findings: Fifty-one percent of the respondents worked in practices that had developed specific policies, procedures, and resources for patients on oral chemotherapy. Barriers to treatment adherence included cost (81%) and adverse effects (72%). Practices with specific policies differed in clinical and statistical significance from practices without policies on almost every survey item. Free-text responses revealed that many practices have erratic procedures and inadequate interdisciplinary communication.

Conclusions: Systematic reliable policies and procedures for patient education, documentation, and interdisciplinary communication are urgently needed.

Implications for Nursing: Nurses should provide education and repeated teaching to improve patient safety, adherence to the medication, and self-monitoring for adverse effects.

Key Words: ambulatory care; oral chemotherapy; chemotherapy; clinical practice; patient education

The purpose of the study was to explore and describe current nursing practices in the United States regarding care and safety of patients who are taking oral chemotherapy. The study had two specific aims: (a) to uncover nurse perspectives relative to the challenges in current practices for oral chemotherapy treatment and (b) to identify common barriers to treatment adherence among patients receiving oral chemotherapy.