Organization Logo(s)

Exploring Clinicians' Perspectives and Attitudes Towards Hospital-at-Home for Cancer Patients: A Descriptive Qualitative Study in Singapore

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Aim / Objectives

This study aimed to To explore oncology and haematology clinicians' perceptions, referral considerations, and perceived enablers and barriers when offering Hospital-at-Home care in Singapore.

Background

Hospital-at-Home is increasingly used to deliver acute hospital-level care in patients' homes, yet its application in oncology and haematology remains underdeveloped. Clinicians are key gatekeepers of referral, but little is known about how they judge suitability, safety, and acceptability for patients with cancer or haematological conditions, particularly in Asian health systems.

Interventions / Implementation

A descriptive qualitative study was conducted across three public tertiary hospitals in Singapore. Semi-structured interviews were undertaken with 26 clinicians, including 16 oncologists and 10 haematologists, between March and October 2025. Data were analyzed using inductive thematic analysis, with reporting guided by COREQ.

Results & Outcomes/ Discussion

Three themes were identified: (1) Developing trust in HaH, (2) Judging suitability beyond clinical stability, and (3) Conditions for sustainable scale-up. Clinicians described an evolving journey from initial mixed reactions encompassing both promise and specialist caution towards growing trust and confidence shaped by positive referral experiences, responsive communication, and structured safety protocols. Referral decisions extended beyond clinical stability to encompass caregiver capacity, digital literacy, sociocultural and financial considerations unique to Singapore's multiethnic context. Looking ahead, clinicians articulated a vision for sustainable HaH growth, highlighting the need for specialist workforce preparation, technological innovation, expanded service reach, and strengthened public and clinician engagement.

Conclusion

Clinician adoption of oncology and haematology Hospital-at-Home is shaped by more than clinical eligibility. Trust, specialist confidence, sociocultural acceptability, caregiver capacity, and visible safety infrastructure are central to sustainable implementation. These findings can inform culturally responsive and clinically safe strategies for scaling Hospital-at-Home in oncology and haematology care.