



St. Jude Global Scholars Projects: Pascale Yola Heurtelou Gasant



Improving the System of Preparation and Administration of Cytostatics at Saint-Damien Hospital in Haiti

This project aimed to optimize and establish best practices for the process of preparation and administration of cytotoxic drugs at Saint-Damien Hospital in Haiti. Through a mixed-methods, quality improvement approach qualitative and quantitative data was collected through questionnaires, focus groups, a preparation and administration checklist, and daily monitoring of symptoms. Data analysis was conducted and Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) cycles were used to test and adjust interventions.

For patients and families, the project made a clear difference. Infections linked to preparation formulas dropped, side effects were followed up more closely, and trust in the care process grew. At a system-wide level, the project represents a first in pediatric oncology in Haiti: it offers a replicable, evidence-based model that can inspire other hospital departments and serve as a reference for the Ministry of Health nationwide. Monitoring tools were put in place, and the quality committee stayed active. Regular data became available, allowing the hospital to track practices and assess their effects over time. These measures sustained the changes and helped organize care more safely.

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Project Details



Location

Port-au-Prince, Haiti



Setting

Single Center:
Saint-Damien Hospital



Health Condition

Childhood Cancer



Focus Areas

Equity, Quality



Target Age Group

All Pediatric Patients

Systems-Level Change

Participants

100 Children

45 Health Care Workers

34 Caregivers

UN Sustainable Development Goal

Goal 3: Good Health and Well-Being

Goal 10: Reducing Inequalities

Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals

WHO Health System Building Blocks

Health service delivery

Health workforce

Leadership and governance



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Key Findings

The following are key findings from this Global Scholars Project which aimed to improve cytostatic preparation and administration at Saint-Damien Hospital in Haiti.

- The project results highlight progress in improving the quality and safety of cytostatic preparation and administration at Saint-Damien Hospital.
- Centralizing preparation in the pharmacy has increased compliance with international standards from less than 10% to an average compliance rate well above the target of 76%.
- During 72 weeks of follow-up, the average compliance rate was 98%, and no infections related to the preparations were reported. Some week-to-week variation occurred, but results stayed above the targets throughout.
- Improvements in the administration process were observed, including improved documentation of side effects and fewer adverse events associated with non-standardized practices.
- Surveys conducted among parents throughout the project confirm these advances. Nearly all of the 34 respondents reported satisfaction with the care their child received, often mentioning the kindness and availability of the staff. Many described feeling supported throughout the treatment process.

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Systems-Level Change

[GlCC CureAll Projects](#)

3. Implementation of cancer workforce training packages

5. Defining national standards and guidelines for index cancers

6. Essential medicines and technologies strengthening, including via UN



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Key Findings

- Collaboration across doctors, pharmacists, nurses, and technicians also increased, with stronger links between teams. Among the 41 employees who answered the survey, most said their daily work had evolved and that teamwork felt stronger, especially between doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and technicians.
- The implementation of PDSA cycles, the development of protocols, and the training sessions have helped anchor these changes, despite an institutional context marked by instability.



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