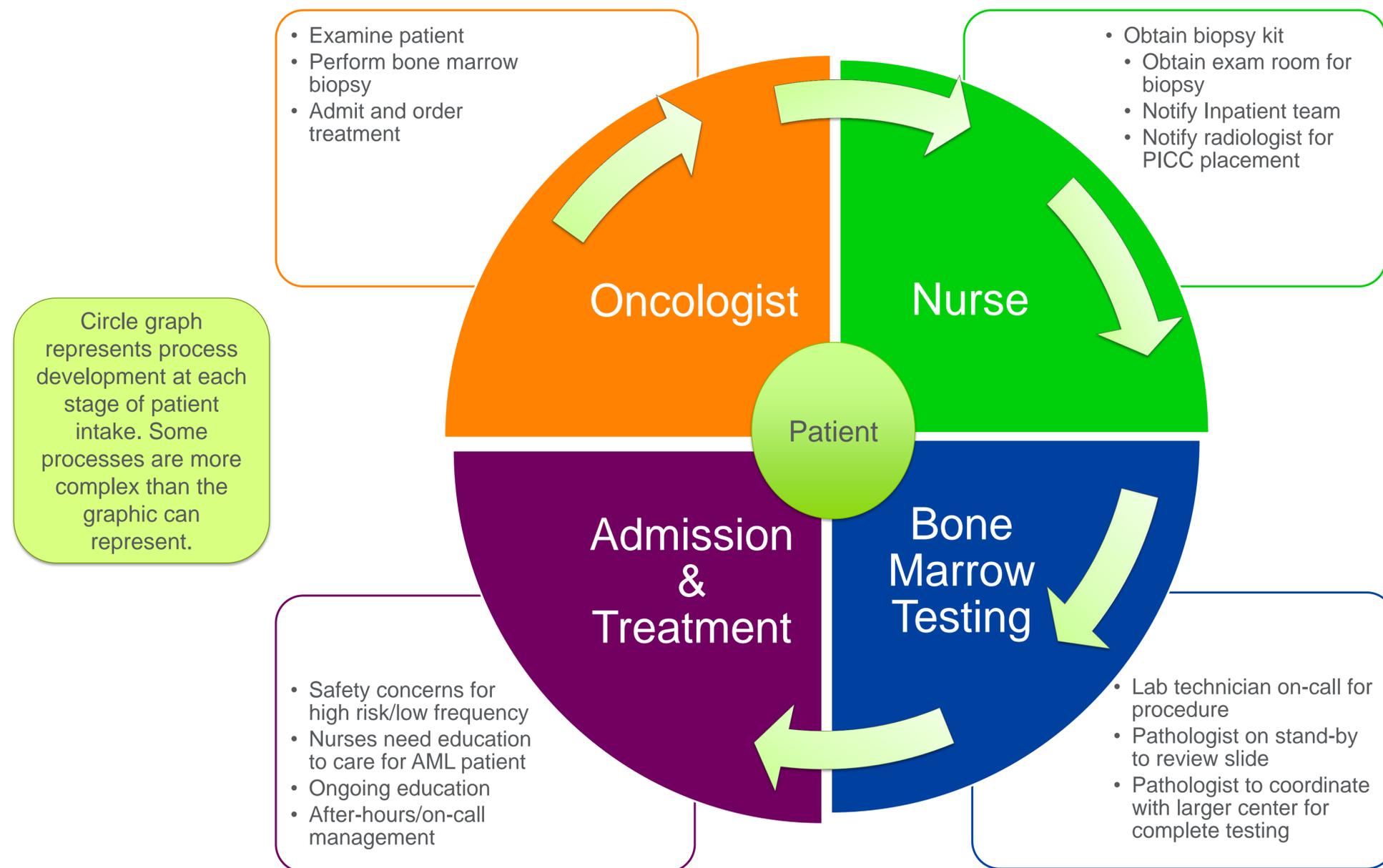


Acute Myelogenous Leukemia (AML)

Working up a new suspected case of AML in a regional cancer center



Stacy Newberry RN, BSN, OCN, BMTCN



BACKGROUND

This project represents the initial phase in developing a pathway for evaluation and treating patients that present to a regional cancer center. It was discovered that the facility does not have a process to perform a bone marrow biopsy on demand, which is essential to the diagnosis of AML.

METHODS

A literature review was performed to determine current guidelines, recommendations, and the essential components for an AML diagnostic workup. A pathway was then developed, beginning with the patient presentation at the cancer center and ending with admission and treatment.

RESULTS

It was revealed that many processes will need to be created in order to ensure that a proper, timely workup can be achieved. Staff education would be essential and continuing education will need to be developed and presented periodically.

CONCLUSION

Patient safety and facility risk is a concern due to the complicated nature of AML and infrequent presentation of this type of patient. It will be costly to develop the processes needed to ensure risk reduction and patient safety. The medical oncology group is considering these factors before making a decision to move forward.