Clinical research nurses and non-licensed study coordinators observed variation in procedures for reconciliation and disposal of oral investigational medications across the institution. An academic medical center implemented a quality improvement project to standardize the process of reconciliation and disposal of oral investigational medications. An interprofessional collaborative workgroup was formed, which led to multiple interventions to standardize practice, including revision of three policies and procedures, redesign of specific work areas to establish drug-counting rooms, review of personal protective equipment requirements, revision of educational training, and regular cleaning of potentially contaminated workstations.

**AT A GLANCE**
- Global use of oral investigational agents has grown exponentially during the past two decades.
- Clinical research programs that provide oversight for medication administration require rigorous processes for reconciliation and safe handling of oral agents to protect staff.
- Educational initiatives and systematic internal policy updates support a culture of quality and safety in cancer care research settings.

**Background**
HDs used in cancer medicine include chemotherapy, antivirals, hormones, bioengineered medicine, and other miscellaneous agents (NIOSH, 2016). Nearly eight million healthcare professionals are at risk for hazardous drug (HD) exposure during the preparation and administration of anticancer drugs (Celano et al., 2019). Real and potential adverse health effects have been associated with HD exposure (National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health [NIOSH], 2018). Safe practices for handling and administering investigational drugs are not universally standardized, and several areas of the medication-use process may pose safety risks to research nurses and non-licensed clinical study coordinators (Brown et al., 2017).

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center (MDACC) in Houston boasts a robust clinical trial research community. There are approximately 250 research nurses and 450 nonlicensed study coordinators within the hospital. In May 2021, the MDACC clinical trial portfolio consisted of 6,449 total clinical trials, which included 1,968 treatment trials. From September 2019 to August 2020, a total of 23,959 individual outpatient oral investigational medication prescriptions were filled at MDACC pharmacy (S. Amin, personal communication, May 21, 2021).