

## August Update

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You can actually smell Spring in the air today, which is appropriate as there has been some very Spring-like growth and development at [Cancer Learning](#) in the past month too! In a series of website initiatives to be launched in the coming months, we are happy to today bring you the new “NEW” symbol – a red notification that precedes any resources that have been added to the site in the preceding month, to assist you to locate any new information and activities. This month we also launch the new [Rural and Remote page](#) in the [FIND](#) section, comprising resources that recognise the specific issues encountered by health professionals and cancer patients in areas where distance, access and isolation are major factors. We encourage you to [submit](#) resources and activities you have developed or use in your practice for inclusion in this or other sections of the site. In the coming months, we look forward to expanding into two further professional development areas in cancer continuing education: Prevention, Risk and Screening and Non-Clinical Skill development; as well as launching the new tumour stream specific section of the [Cancer Learning](#), highlighting resources and activities focused on the highest incidence cancers in Australia. And they don't even take into account a whole new area of the site that will be available soon – watch this space!

### EdCaN

Recent additions to the suite of [EdCaN learning resources](#) on [Cancer Learning](#) are a downloadable [FAQ](#) sheet, answering common questions from Learners and Educators about accessing and implementing these fantastic resources; and the new, downloadable developmental portfolios in the [Learner Resources](#), available for [Enrolled Nurses](#), [Registered Nurses](#), [Specialist Cancer Nurses](#) and [Nurse Practitioners](#) to keep a portable and visible record of professional development activities that demonstrate their continuing education and competence.

### Upcoming Events

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For more information about these and other coming events, see Key Events in the [News](#) section of [Cancer Learning](#).

- ▶ Registrations are open for the NSW Rural and Remote Health Conference, presented by NSW Institute of Rural Clinical Services and Teaching (IRCST), to be held 4-5 November in Albury, NSW.
- ▶ Early Bird Reduced Registration Rate for COSA 2010 ASM closes September 6th 2010. Register now for the *37th COSA Annual Scientific Meeting: Beyond Cancer*, to be held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, 9-11 November 2010.
- ▶ International Psycho-Oncology Society invites you to attend the *13th World Congress of Psycho-Oncology and Psychosocial Academy*, to be held from 16-20 October 2011 in Antalya, Turkey.

## **New on [Cancer Learning](#) in August**

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Don't forget to look for the **\*NEW\*** symbol to identify recently added resources.

### **[Evidence and latest treatments resources](#) page**

#### **Clinical Guidelines for the Administration of Oral Chemotherapy Agents in the Community Setting**

A lack of information related to the safe administration of oral chemotherapy agents in the community setting for health care professionals, patients and carers was a service gap identified by stakeholders involved in the improvement of cancer care delivery, and so GICS developed Clinical Guidelines that address this gap, in order to:

1. ensure health care professionals, patients and family have information available to them
2. act as a resource for health care professionals in providing information to patients and family
3. to provide a care pathway which is in alignment with best practice.

### **[Evidence and latest treatments learning activities](#) page**

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#### **Internet Research Skills Tutorial**

A set of free web based modules, customised to areas including medicine, nursing, pharmacy, allied health and psychology, to assist students and other health professionals develop Internet research skills and learn to make discerning use of the Internet to help find information for university coursework and assignments. All tutorials are written and reviewed by a national team of lecturers and librarians from universities across the UK. The interactive, teach-yourself tutorials take around an hour to complete and allow the participant to work through the material in their own time and pace.

### **[Fundamentals of Oncology learning activities](#) page**

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#### **VEINS FOR LIFE\* awareness program**

The VEINS FOR LIFE\* awareness program is designed to help health professionals weigh the advantages and disadvantages of implanted ports and other vascular access devices (VAD) over peripheral intravenous devices (PIV), and to educate patients about implanted ports as a viable vascular access option. A range of information and education materials are available on the site to assist health professionals select the most appropriate device to meets their patients' immediate and long-term needs.

#### **Free Spaced Education Modules**

*Spaced Education* was originally developed at Harvard Medical School and takes advantage of the psychological finding that educational encounters which are spaced and repeated over time result in more efficient learning and improved learning retention. Enrolled participants answer small numbers of case-based multiple choice questions that are emailed to them over a number of weeks. Upon answering a question, participants are given succinct feedback and links to further resources. Questions are repeated using an evidence-based adaptive algorithm which personalizes the spacing of a course to the demonstrated knowledge level of each participant. The program is completed once the participant has retired all the questions by answering them correctly twice. New modules are continually being developed. Two free, cancer specific Spaced Education modules are currently available for enrolment: Core Urology for Medical Students and prIME Oncology Prostate questions.

#### **CVAD Competency On-line Training Modules**

Developed by Nurse Education Workforce Strategy - Gippsland Oncology Nurses Group (GONG), this is a series of PowerPoint presentations regarding the insertion, placing, management and removal of Central Venous Access Devices (CVADS).

## **Gynaecological Oncology Educational Opportunities for Non Cancer Specialist**

The Cancer Institute NSW has compiled details of a number available educational opportunities in gynaecological oncology developed by a number of providers for non specialist health professionals. Some activities have been approved for CME points with various professional bodies. Information includes course convenors, dates, costs and contacts for further details.

### [Fundamentals of Oncology resources page](#)

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#### **Cancer Staging Protocols**

Based on the AJCC/UICC 7th edition Cancer Staging Manual, these protocols, forms and guides are provided for educational purposes by the Royal College of Pathologists Australia to support the implementation of structured pathology reporting of cancer. They are optional and can be used in the absence of existing local structured reporting forms and guides, or as a guide to what should be included in local structured pathology reporting for various cancers including Colorectal, Haematopoietic and Lymphoid Tumours, Lung, Primary Cutaneous Melanoma, Prostate (Radical Prostatectomy) and Breast Cancers.

### [Coordination of Care resources page](#)

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#### **Guidelines for Implementing Exercise Programs for Cancer Patients**

Developed specifically for physiotherapists and other health professionals including exercise physiologists, occupational therapists and oncologists based largely on the research and successful cancer survivor program at the Vario Health Institute at Edith Cowan University, these guidelines, these guidelines present background information on exercise prescription including modes of exercise, program variables and principles related to training that are critical to induce exercise adaptation; examine specific issues that may influence a cancer patient's capacity to exercise during and after treatment; and provide a generic (home-based and clinic-based) exercise program for cancer patients and assist with the administration of such a program.

### [Multidisciplinary Care Resources page](#)

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#### **Multidisciplinary Care Resources**

A number of resources have been developed by several of the Victorian Integrated Cancer Services, including:

- Multidisciplinary Care Guidelines for Women with Breast Disease package describes best practice standards for health care professionals in providing coordinated, multidisciplinary care to women with breast disease, developed by Loddon Mallee Region Breast Services Enhancement Project (LMR BSEP).
- A range of Multidisciplinary Meeting procedural documents developed by Gippsland Regional Integrated Cancer Services (GRICS) to support Multidisciplinary cancer teams, including Facilitator and Chairperson guidelines, meeting protocols and terms of reference.
- Tools and resources developed by Western and Central Melbourne Integrated Cancer Service (WCMICS) to strengthen and develop multidisciplinary care services, including treatment plans, audit tools, agendas, communication forms and proforma templates.

### [Culturally and Linguistically Diverse page](#)

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A broad range of free information, guides, support tools and educational opportunities from Queensland Health for health workers interacting with patients from culturally diverse backgrounds, including activities and events, multicultural health services, multilingual information, support tools and training and education opportunities.

## [Geriatrics Resources page](#)

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### **Australian and New Zealand Society for Geriatric Medicine Position Statements**

Position Statements have been produced by Australian and New Zealand Society for Geriatric Medicine and approved by the Federal Council on specific geriatric issues including palliative care, Indigenous ageing and geriatric assessment and services.

### ***Cancer in Older People: a Tale of Two Disciplines***

A published, peer reviewed article regarding the challenges that Australia faces with the unprecedented needs of cancer in the elderly, including recommendations for managing this growing area of healthcare. (Ref: Steer, C. B.; Marx, G. M.; Singhal, N.; McJannett, M.; Goldstein, D. & Prowse, R. (2009), *Cancer in Older People: a Tale of Two Disciplines*, Internal Medicine Journal, 39:771–775)

## [Primary Care Resources page](#)

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### **Side Effects of Chemotherapy: A Practical Guide For Primary Care**

A free online learning module developed for BMJ Learning by Jane Maher and Jeanette Dickson at the Mount Vernon Cancer Centre, London. After completing this module, participants should have a better knowledge of the common acute side effects of chemotherapy, the common late side effects of chemotherapy, how life threatening side effects can present and practical ways to help overcome these side effects.

### **Patient Safety Tools: Improving Safety at the Point of Care**

These 17 toolkits were produced under Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)'s Partnerships in Implementing Patient Safety (PIPS) grant program and are designed to help health care institutions and clinicians provide—and consumers to receive—safe, quality health care at various points in the health care process—in the hospital, in the emergency department, in the intensive care unit, in the pharmacy, and when being discharged from one setting to another. A variety of evidence-based tools, including training materials, medication guides and checklists, that are easily adapted to other institutions and care settings have been developed in areas including Handoffs and Transitions, Discharge, Medication Safety, Medication Reconciliation, Work Processes, Communication and Patient Centred Care and Infection.

### **Quick Reference Guide for GPs: Medicare MDT Billing**

Dandenong Casey General Practice Association developed and reviewed this document in January 2010 which provides a quick reference guide for general practitioners regarding Medicare billing for Chronic Disease Management (CDM) - Item Numbers 721-731 as per the Medicare Benefits Schedule, including:

- Preparation of a GP Management Plan (GPMP) - Item 721
- Coordination of Team Care Arrangements (TCAs)- Item 723
- Review of a GP Management Plan - Item 725
- Coordination of a Review of Team Care Arrangements - Item 727
- Contribution to a multidisciplinary care plan being prepared by another health or care provider -Item 729
- Contribution to a multidisciplinary care plan being prepared for a resident of an aged care facility - Item 731

## [New Rural and Remote Resources page](#)

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Don't forget to take a look at the wide range of resources included on the new [Rural and Remote](#) page and [submit](#) any resources, information or activities you have developed or know of that would develop this section of the site.

## **What do you think?**

Let us know what you think of the website, the new sections that are being added and suggest any ideas you may have for improvements to [Cancer Learning](#) by emailing [info@cancerlearning.gov.au](mailto:info@cancerlearning.gov.au) or completing the online [feedback](#) form.

Til next month, enjoy Spring and happy learning!

**The Cancer Learning Team**

Please feel free to forward this newsletter to anyone you think would benefit from it.

You can [register](#) for monthly email update newsletters [here](#).

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