

February 2010 News

We hope that this [Cancer Learning](#) update finds you well! This month we are very excited to launch the first of the eagerly awaited [EdCaN](#) supporting resources that complement the video case studies launched in 2009. See the EdCaN entry below for further details and links to the new suite of assessment resources and modules regarding oncology fundamentals. The full set of supporting modules will be available soon. Our web programmer is in the final stages of testing the new system which will greatly improve site navigation and boost searching capacity, so by the time you receive the email update next month, the website will be running off our new, dynamic SQL database, including an enhanced resource submission tool for ease of sharing resources and activities. We are also about to publish a new professional development pathway for cancer data managers and are finalising a new Spaced Education module for chemotherapy nurses that we look forward to launching in the near future. 2010 promises to be a busy one!

[EdCaN](#)

The [EdCaN learning resources](#) section of Cancer Learning has again been updated to include several new resources and supporting modules. Of particular note, located in the [Educator Resources](#) section is the suite of assessment resources which are now available for download in PDF form, including:

- An [overview](#) of assessment (both online and downloadable PDF format)
- Four competency assessment tools:
 - [Antineoplastic agent administration](#)
 - [Care of febrile neutropenia](#)
 - [Therapeutic communication](#)
 - [Management of CVADs](#)
- Four assessment fact sheets for [written examinations](#), [essays](#), [portfolios](#) and [performance assessment](#).

In addition to these assessment resources, two new supporting modules are now available that complement the video case studies launched in 2009: the [Biology of Cancer](#) and [Cancer Treatment Planning](#) which can be located in the [Domain 3](#) provision and coordination of care section. Further supporting resources will be uploaded in the near future.

[eviQ Cancer Treatments Online](#)

[eviQ Cancer Treatments Online](#) provides access to accurate, current, relevant, evidence based information about clinical cancer treatments and now, you can also participate in the newly launched online [clinical discussion forums](#) or check out [eviQEd](#) to find out about the latest progress made to develop the cancer education section of the site. In 2010, [eviQEd](#) will launch several modules in conjunction with Cancer Learning, including a Chemotherapy Prescribing for Junior Medical Staff module and a Cancer Nursing Orientation program. [Register](#) now for a username and password.

Coming Events

2010 Cancer Care Coordination Conference: Relationships, roles, reality

COSA, in conjunction with Queensland Health, will be holding a Cancer Care Coordination Conference in Surfers Paradise from 24-26 March 2010. It will feature the latest information on best practice in Cancer Care Coordination; evaluations of, and coalface perspectives on, current

Cancer Care Coordinator roles; the development of joint criteria to embed the role as a recognised part of the system; and forums for all stakeholders to contribute to the development of cancer care coordination. For further information: <http://www.asnevents.com.au/cccc/>

Australia & Asia Pacific Clinical Oncology (ACORD) Workshop

Online applications close TODAY for the 4th Australia & Asia Pacific Clinical Oncology Workshop (ACORD) 2010 at www.acordworkshop.org.au. Held on the Sunshine Coast, Queensland from 12-17 September 2010, this Workshop provides comprehensive training in clinical trials design and the preparation of a clinical research protocol for up to sixty participants from any oncology and cancer related specialties from Australia and the Asia Pacific Region. The program is of high relevance to Fellows and trainees undertaking specialty training in all oncology disciplines and cancer related specialties such as Paediatrics, Haematology, Palliative Care, Medical Oncology, Radiation Oncology as well as allied health disciplines such as Nursing and Psychology.

Event calendars

There is now a central location on Cancer Learning to access the event calendars for the key Australian & international professional bodies: <http://www.cancerlearning.gov.au/about/news.php>
If you have an event coming up that you would like us to include on the site or in the monthly email update, please email info@cancerlearning.gov.au with the details.

New on Cancer Learning in February:

Fundamentals of Oncology learning activities

International Atomic Energy Agency Applied Sciences of Oncology Course, Version 3

Developed by the CCORE (Collaboration for Cancer Outcomes Research & Evaluation) of the South Western Sydney Area Health Service for the International Atomic Energy Agency, this distance learning material contains 8 topics and 80 modules covering radiobiology, physics, oncology anatomy, palliation, chemotherapy, communication skills and molecular biology. The full course can be downloaded for free from the IAEA website and burned to 2 CDs.

e-Learning Training Package for Medicare Item 10997

In partnership with Royal College of Nursing Australia (RCNA) and Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education, the Australian General Practice Network have released a new professional development elearning module for practice nurses and registered Aboriginal Health Workers on the RCNA professional development site, 3LP, the 'e-Learning Training Package for Medicare Item 10997'. Medicare Item 10997 relates to the provision of monitoring and support to people with a chronic disease care plan, by a practice nurse or registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker on behalf of a general practitioner. The elearning package is designed to enhance the role of practice nurses and Aboriginal Health Workers providing this service to patients with a chronic disease, including patients with cancer, to support GPs to provide quality care to patients and to assist general practitioners to feel confident that practice nurses and registered Aboriginal Health Workers who successfully undertake the e-learning package are appropriately qualified and trained to provide monitoring and support for patients with a chronic disease care plan.

Deakin University Professional Development Unit (PDU) "Cancer care for health professionals" learning package

The Faculty of Health, Medicine, Nursing and Behavioural Sciences at Deakin University and Professional Development Unit (PDU) at Deakin University are currently offering two new learning packages available in their "Cancer care for health professionals" suite: (two additional packages will be available in late 2011). PDU401 Cancer Care: Body Systems and Assessment aims to guide the health professional workforce to enhance the quality of cancer care for individuals and their families. PDU402 Cancer Care: Psychosocial Perspectives aims to explore the psychosocial, cultural and spiritual dimensions of cancer care from the perspectives of the patient

and strategies to be addressed by the professional and the team when caring for the patient with cancer. These distance learning packages provide nurses with the opportunity to update their professional skills, support their current practice, take another career direction or seek an alternative entry pathway into Higher Education.

OncologyEducation.ca

OncologyEducation.ca is a Canadian developed educational resource for medical oncology professionals. The site includes a set of key resources and updated information to support daily clinical practice and educational needs, including the latest tumour specific research and journal articles; online CME activities; links to treatment summaries, practice guidelines, decision aides and drug information and a broad range of multimedia learning resources.

Fundamentals of Oncology resources

Adjuvant! Online: Decision making tools for health care professionals

The purpose of Adjuvant! is to help health professionals and patients with early cancer discuss the risks and benefits of getting additional therapy (adjuvant therapy: usually chemotherapy, hormone therapy, or both) after surgery. The goal is to help health professionals make estimates of the risk of negative outcome (cancer related mortality or relapse) without systemic adjuvant therapy, estimates of the reduction of these risks afforded by therapy, and risks of side effects of the therapy. These estimates are based on information entered about individual patients and their tumors (for example, patient age, tumor size, nodal involvement, histologic grade, etc.) The information is provided as a supplement to, not substitute for, clinical judgment.

Oral Complications of Cancer Treatment: What the Oncology Team Can Do

Information from the American National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research about a range of oral side effects radiation to the head and neck and chemotherapy for any malignancy can cause. For some patients, these complications may become dose-limiting and slow, or even halt, cancer treatment. This brochure provides information for oncology teams to assist in the prevention and management of oral complications to help support optimal cancer treatment and patient quality of life.

Evidence and latest treatments resources

National Centre for Gynaecological Cancers

The National Centre for Gynaecological Cancers is an Australian Government initiative to improve outcomes for women affected by gynaecological cancers and their families and caregivers. It has been established by Cancer Australia. The Centre provides national leadership to improve outcomes for women with gynaecological cancers and increase awareness and education about gynaecological cancers for medical and allied health professionals, including an interactive psychosexual training module for health professionals to address the psychosexual care of women affected by gynaecological cancers

The Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia (PCFA) website

The Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia (PCFA) is the national body for prostate cancer in Australia. It funds research and other efforts to reduce the impact of prostate cancer on the community. The website includes information for health professionals including downloadable booklets, Prostate Cancer for General Practitioners: PSA Booklet II, guide for general practitioners faced with the question of how best to manage consultations with men who present for a general check-up or who have particular concerns about prostate cancer; and "How to talk to patients about PSA".

Journal of Cancer Education

The *Journal of Cancer Education* is the official journal of the American Association for Cancer Education and the European Association for Cancer Education, an international, quarterly, peer

reviewed journal dedicated to the publication of original contributions related to cancer education for health professionals, patients, and the general public. Articles featured include reports of original results of educational research, as well as discussions of current problems and techniques in cancer education.

Drug Information Services

From the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) website, this is a list of Australian national and state drug information services contact details. Also includes links to the International Register of Drug Information Services

Multidisciplinary care resources

Peter Mac Allied Health Information

Information for medical professionals about the various services offered and the vital role played in the multidisciplinary team by Allied Health carers for cancer patients at different stages of their journey; which may begin at diagnosis and treatment and continue intermittently as required to survivorship and palliative care. A brief overview of the following Allied Health disciplines at Peter Mac are: Speech Pathology, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Nutrition, Social Work, Music Therapy, Psycho-Oncology and Pastoral Care.

Culturally and Linguistically Diverse resources

Cancer Information and Support Centre Multilingual Cancer Information

Cancer related information in many languages including Arabic, Bosnian, Chinese, Croatian, Filipino, Greek, Italian, Khmer (Cambodian), Macedonian, Malaysian, Polish, Russian, Serbian, Somali, Spanish, Tigrinya, Turkish and Vietnamese.

Primary Care resources

Australian MBS Primary Care Items: Chronic Disease Management (CDM) Medicare Items

Information on Chronic Disease Management (CDM) items, including MBS item descriptors, explanatory notes, questions and answers, an overview fact sheet and example scenarios regarding the use of CDM items.

M. D. Anderson's Education Center Training for Medical Group Practices Courses

Free, online training is available for medical practice staff to advance their computer and professional skills. Courses are available in medical terminology, effective communication and Microsoft Office (PowerPoint, Excel and Word).

Supportive care resources

Australian Department of Health and Ageing Carers Information Pack

The Carer Information Pack provides practical information that health professionals can provide to carers and family members to assist them to care for the cancer patient and themselves, produced by Aged and Community Care Division of the Australian Department of Health and Ageing. The Carer Information Pack is free to carers and provides practical information to support them in their caring role. PDF fact sheets are available for download in PDF formats on the following topics: Taking a break; Feelings; Managing money; Managing health care and medications; Legal arrangements; Safety at home; Taking care of yourself; Loss and grief; Services for you; and an Emergency care plan and list for recording medication requirements.

Key Resources

Cancer Learning houses free modules developed by Cancer Australia to assist you and your team to develop your skills and knowledge of cancer care. Find these activities and resources in the [Key Resources](#) section of the site, and email info@cancerlearning.gov.au or

ana.munro@sydney.edu.au for a free username and password to undertake the online learning activities.

Don't forget that you can [submit](#) any resources you find useful to us so we can share them with others via the Cancer Learning site. We value your feedback and are always looking for ways to improve the website, so please complete the brief [evaluation form](#) to tell us how you use the website and how it could better meet your needs.

Until next month, 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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