



July News

Cancer Learning

We've somehow already passed the halfway mark of 2009 and several major milestones, including the successful launch of the new EdCaN learning resources developed as part of Cancer Australia's *Strengthening Cancer Care* initiative, which are now housed on Cancer Learning at: http://www.cancerlearning.gov.au/build/edcan_learning_resources.php.

If you haven't had a chance to look at this extensive suite of educational resources, take the time to view one of the 11 [video case studies](#) (Adobe [Flash Player](#) required) and meet the cancer patients, their families and carers on various stages of their cancer journey; reflecting the diversity in cancer diagnoses, demographics, cultural backgrounds, treatments and responses to the physical and psychosocial impacts of cancer.

The videos are augmented by a series of [learning activities](#) that challenge your thinking about particular aspects of the scenario, facilitate reflection on learning/practice and develop competencies needed by professionals working in cancer care. Take a look today!

EdCaN

Following the launch of the [EdCaN learning resources](#) on Cancer Learning at the CNSA 12th Winter Congress in Newcastle, the EdCaN team are busy completing the remaining resources to have them uploaded to the site as soon as possible. To enhance the text the addition of video content is being made to the Cancer Care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples resource with filming being conducted this week. Dr Deborah Pryor has sourced a number of Indigenous education and senior project officers to provide input in the video.

EPICC

New Online Cancer Education Program for Medical Practitioners Available in August

The Education Program in Cancer Care (EPICC) www.epicc.org.au, funded by the Australian Government through Cancer Australia is being launched at the Medical Oncology Group of Australia [Annual Scientific Meeting](#) on 13 August in Canberra, ACT. Registrations for the ASM are now open.

The online education program, available at no cost, includes educational activities, relevant literature, resources and links to existing programs and information on the following cancer care topics:

- General principles of cancer
- Cancer diagnosis
- Cancer treatment
- Multidisciplinary teams
- Side effects of cancer treatment and symptom management
- Oncological emergencies
- Psychosocial care
- Follow up
- Palliative care

Designed for non-cancer specialist medical practitioners (general practitioners, general physicians, gynaecologists, etc), this program can be completed as learning modules or accessed as informational resources. To learn more contact the Project Manager, Kevin Comlossy on kcomlossy@moga.org.au.

New Resources

Share your resources

We aim to consolidate the growing number of valuable evidence based cancer resources available, both locally and internationally, so you can easily access information to develop your professional knowledge and skills. If you find a useful resource or learning activity that you would like to share with others working in cancer care, please [submit](#) it to us for evaluation for inclusion on the [Cancer Learning](#) website.

New resources submitted to [Cancer Learning](#) this month include:

Patient Management section on [Coordination of Care](#) page

- In recognition of the importance of a patient-centred approach to care, we have new resources in the Patient Management section of Coordination of Care, of particular interest, the [Referral Pathways for Suspected Cancer](#), a cancer-specific (lung cancer and mesothelioma, prostate cancer, bone cancer, head and neck cancer, soft tissue cancer and colorectal cancer) PDF flipchart developed by the Cancer Institute NSW to provide standardised, agreed information to General Practitioners about cancer symptoms to enable informed, timely referral to the most appropriate cancer specialist.
- Another great resource featured in this new section are the [Patient Management Frameworks](#) developed by Department of Human Services, Victoria, that provide a clear description of the care pathway, identifying the critical points along that pathway and the optimal model of care required, based on latest evidence and best practice. Pathways are included for the following cancer types: breast, colorectal, gynaecological/ovarian, head and neck; lung, skin, genitourinary/testicular, upper GI, oesophagastric, central nervous system, haematological and lymphoma.

[Primary Care](#)

New resources featured this month on the [Primary Care](#) page, which continues to grow with information specifically for GPs and nurse practitioners, include:

- [CareSearch GP Information](#)
Designed to support GPs caring for palliative patients, the new evidence-based GP pages on CareSearch, an Australian website supporting health professionals providing palliative care, address the clinical and practical issues for GPs associated with providing palliative care in the community. These issues include managing symptoms; caring for a dying patient; supporting families and making it work in the general practice setting. There is also an extensive list of palliative care tools, documents and agencies organised by topic that can be directly accessed by GPs.
- [Cancer Council Primary Care Resources Directory](#)
A directory of resources developed by Cancer Council's *General Practice Committee* to support GPs and other health professionals to locate the latest resources, providing a single point of access to various state, territory and national cancer resources.
- [Towards a National Primary Health Care Strategy](#)
Read the Cancer Council and the Clinical Oncological Society of Australia (COSA)'s response to the discussion paper by the Government's National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission and Preventative Health Taskforce, providing recommendations for achieving improved cancer outcomes through reform of the primary care sector which increasingly viewed as an integral part of the management of cancer in Australia.
- [Sydney Cancer Centre Referral Directory](#)
With the largest concentration of cancer specialists in NSW, the Sydney Cancer Centre is renowned for its treatment and research of various cancers. The website hosts a directory of cancer specialists, based mostly in Sydney, NSW, across each of the tumour streams to support GPs to make appropriate referrals and to involve themselves in the multidisciplinary care of their patient.

- [Research roundup– the primary care role for people with cancer](#)
Read the report produced by the Primary Health Care Research & Information Service following the Australian government's recent commitment to fund \$5.6 million for cancer research including funding for increasing the role of primary carers in cancer prevention, detection, treatment and care.
- [Australasian College of Skin Cancer Medicine 23 Golden rules for GPs](#)
From their collective experience in the USA and Australia at The Australasian College of Skin Cancer Medicine (ACSCM), the peak body of skin cancer medicine in Australia and New Zealand, Anthony Dixon and Scott Hall have compiled a list of 'golden rules' for general practitioners to help reduce errors and problems with skin cancer management. It is anticipated that these tips will provide a brief yet informative reference when faced with skin cancer management concerns in general practice. These rules were first published in *Australian Family Physician* in August 2005 and were updated in 2008.

Seminars in Oncology Journal

Seminars in Oncology is a US based journal that provides current, authoritative, and practical reviews of developments in the diagnosis and management of patients with cancer. Each issue examines a single topic of clinical importance. Abstracts are publicly available, full text articles are available to [subscribers](#).

- The current edition of *Seminars in Oncology*, [Impact of Malignant Disease in Young Adults](#) focuses on Cancer in Adolescents and Young Adults. Among 20- to 39-year-olds, cancer causes more deaths than any other disease except depression that culminates in suicide. More females in the age group die of cancer than of the next three causes combined. Yet, substantially less attention has been given to young adults than to children and older adults, and the relative improvement in the survival rate in young adults has not kept pace with that achieved in younger or older patients. Additionally, there is evidence that a substantial proportion of the cancers in young adults have a different biology, and probably etiology/pathogenesis, than that of what appears to be the same cancer in younger or older persons. The challenges of early detection, diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up are therefore likely to be distinctly different than in persons of a different age.
- A previous edition of *Seminars in Oncology* from December 2008, [Cancer and the Older Adult](#), focuses on geriatric cancer. Elderly cancer patients may differ from younger patients but there is a lack of evidence-based data about elderly patients. This journal addresses issues specifically in elderly patients with cancer including cancer-related fatigue; cognitive effects of hormonal therapy on older patients; treatments for specific cancers including prostate, ovarian and lung cancers in the elderly; the decisional capacity of the elderly and the relationship of cancer therapies to osteoporosis.

Coventry University Postgraduate Course - [Cancer Care for Teenagers and Young Adults](#)

If you are considering further study, this online, distance education postgraduate certificate course in [Cancer Care for Teenagers and Young Adults](#) through Coventry University in the UK may suit your needs. Aimed at all members of the multidisciplinary team, the course aims to consolidate the theory and practice about cancer in adolescent and young adult patients by including a work-based module as a central part of the course. Various available options including palliative care, acute care and long term follow-up allow students to mould the course to meet their individual practice needs.

[Survivorship](#)

With an increasing number of cancers now able to be treated and cured, there is a growing need to respond to the diverse needs, particularly the ongoing emotional, physical and spiritual health, of cancer survivors. New in the [Supportive Care Survivorship](#) section this month are two great resources for health care professionals:

- The [Handbook of Cancer Survivorship](#) is a comprehensive manual written by over sixty top scientist-practitioners analysing in depth what clinicians, researchers, and public health

systems can do to assist survivors meet and manage the challenges of life after cancer, including stress, mental health issues and behavioural changes, and ease the transition from cancer sufferer to survivor.

- [Addressing the Psychosocial Needs of Cancer Survivors](#) is an article highlighting that many cancer survivors feel that the medical system fails to meet their critical, unique and varied ongoing emotional, physical, and spiritual needs including issues of depression, sexuality, pain, fear of disease recurrence, difficulties in relationships, and financial strain, offering information for health professionals about suggested treatments and other interventions.

[AccessCR](#) newsletter

If you are involved in clinical research, you can sign up for the free [AccessCR fortnightly international update](#) to stay informed of the latest international developments in clinical trials and clinical research. Sign up: http://www.accesscr.com.au/Professional_CT_Update

If you have a chance to visit [Cancer Learning](#) and look at some of the resources or undertake any of the learning activities, please tell us what you think by completing the [evaluation survey](#) so that we can continue to shape the site to better suit your needs.

Happy learning!

The Cancer Learning team

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