

On the first anniversary of the launch of [Cancer Learning](#), we are delighted to announce that the dynamic, new look site is now live! Unveiled at the recent COSA ASM, the new design simplifies site navigation and features an enhanced search feature based on an SQL database of resources which will improve search capacity. Early in the New Year, the site will also be available in a format that can be downloaded to PDAs and hand held devices, so you can take your professional development anywhere with you! The redesign is a result of your feedback and comments over the past year and we'd love to hear what you think of the new site and any suggestions you may have for further developments that will make it as user-friendly, accessible and intuitive as possible. Email us: [info@cancerlearning.gov.au](mailto:info@cancerlearning.gov.au) or complete the online site evaluation: <http://www.cancerlearning.gov.au/feedback/>.

This month we are also very excited to let you know about the latest case study, [Lymphoma](#), added to the [EdCaN suite of learning resources](#); to launch the latest Cancer Learning-developed learning module, [Clinician:Manager Connect](#) for your feedback and evaluation; and advise you of the new educational resources and activities we have recently included on the site. And before the end of the year is upon us, we hope to bring you one more update launching the remaining EdCaN supporting resources and providing you with information about SpacedEd, our new flexible learning platform. All this and Christmas shopping – we'll be busy!

*Clarification:*

In the previous email update, it was incorrectly stated that the [eviQ](#) project was funded by Cancer Australia. Please note that the new *Primary Care* section of the [eviQ](#) website received Cancer Australia funding, however the site is a project of Cancer Institute NSW, funded by NSW Health. Apologies for any confusion caused.

## News

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### EdCaN update

The [EdCaN learning resources](#) have been updated to include the final case study in the 11 case study series. The final [case study](#) recounts the experience of Arthur, a 78-year-old male diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma (NHL). Arthur is a retired train driver who lives with wife Phoebe, who has moderate phase dementia. Arthur is Phoebe's primary carer and they live together in the family home of 45 years.

Lymphoma is more common in the older person. Older people diagnosed with cancer can have unique support needs, associated with co-morbidities, and changes in general health, functional status, and social circumstances. The case study focuses on the Specialist Cancer Nurse's role in the provision and coordination of care for people with NHL, as well as exploring issues associated with diagnosis of cancer in the older person.

Updates to the site have also been made to include:

- the latest version of the EdCaN Framework (Second Edition – June 2009)
- the ANMC competency standards for registered nurses – a cancer control application
- the ANMC competency standards for enrolled (Division 2) nurses – a cancer control application
- Competency standards for specialist cancer nurses
- the ANMC competency standards for nurse practitioners – a cancer control application

The suite of assessment resources and the supporting modules will be included in the next site update, due around Christmas.

### **Clinician:Manager Connect module**

This month we are also rolling out the new [Clinician:Manager Connect](#) module for you to look through, attempt some of the activities and provide us with your feedback, prior to our piloting the module in early 2010.

Developed in consultation with some of Australia's leading clinicians and health care managers, this module aims to address some of the workplace issues and sources of conflict that may impact upon the professional relationship between clinicians and health care managers. Over three sections, *Exploring the Divide*, *Identifying Common Ground*, and *Working Together toward Change*, the module provides information, first-hand advice, case studies, practical skills and other activities to assist clinicians and managers to understand the others' perspective in order to enhance their relationship and to better support each other in the shared goal of providing optimal patient care.

We'd be very grateful if you could look through the module, undertake some or all of the activities and complete the brief online evaluation form so that we can assess the effectiveness, relevance and usability of the module. Please email [info@cancerlearning.gov.au](mailto:info@cancerlearning.gov.au) or [amunro@usyd.edu.au](mailto:amunro@usyd.edu.au) and you will be sent a username and password to access the module.

## **Events**

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### **COSA ASM**

It was lovely to meet so many of you at the gorgeous Gold Coast last week at the annual COSA ASM. The feedback we received at the Cancer Learning booth was really encouraging and we look forward to rolling out the new projects that we were discussing with you in the near future. It was also very exciting when Professor Patsy Yates, Director of Research, School of Nursing and Midwifery QUT, was awarded the annual *Tom Reeve Oration Award for Outstanding Contributions to Cancer Care* at the conference dinner. Another of Patsy's many roles is Curriculum Leader of the EdCaN project, contributing a great deal of time, knowledge and experience to strengthening and developing optimal cancer care in Australia. Our congratulations to a very deserving winner!

### **RNCA Primary Health Care Conference**

Even in sweltering conditions, it was fantastic to have the opportunity to speak at the Royal College of Nursing Primary Health Care conference in Adelaide recently. We were very grateful to be able to present the website and some of its modules to such an interested audience and we look forward to hearing how you have integrated Cancer Learning into your learning programs.

## **New resources in November**

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### **Evidence and latest treatments resources**

#### **Cancer Council National Cancer Prevention Policy 2007-2009**

A document that aims to provide a blueprint for optimal cancer prevention and early detection in Australia for 2007–09, drawing on the latest evidence and exploring the impact, risk factors, policy context and effective interventions.

#### **Cancer Nurses Society of Australia Chemotherapy Position Statement**

A document specifying the CNSA's position regarding the minimum education and safety requirements for nurses involved in the administration of cytotoxic drugs.

### **Fundamentals of Oncology learning activities**

#### **Staging Resources**

A new focus for cancer data collection, staging is the process of determining how much cancer there is in the body and where it is located that describes the extent or severity of an individual's cancer based on the extent of the original (primary) tumor and the extent of spread in the body, assisting clinicians to plan treatment and determine a prognosis. Resources include: "Staging

Moments", a tumour specific series of succinct, case-based presentations featuring: symptom presentation; imaging work-up; and pathology diagnosis, targeting difficult and common staging scenarios and clarifying the finer points of staging; 'AJCC TNM Schema Slide Library" a downloadable slide library consisting of site-specific material covering a variety of tumors including the site-specific TNM, stage grouping, and pertinent survival data.

### **Myeloma Nurses' Learning Programme**

A self-learning educational resource developed by the European Blood and Marrow Transplant Group and the International Myeloma Foundation UK providing evidence-based, up to date information on all aspects of myeloma divided into 18 modules with a CD-ROM and tutorial, PowerPoint slides and fax back self assessment forms for each module.

### **3LP- RCNA Life Long Learning Program**

A wide variety of web-based online courses to assist nurses to accrue CNE points to develop and maintain the highest standards of professional excellence. The site also includes an personal electronic portfolio for members of RCNA and subscribers to track their professional development activity and points, an individual professional journal and certificates that can be printed on completion of a course.

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

#### **Cytotoxic drugs and related waste risk management guide 2008**

This guide provides practical advice to employers and employees on how to prevent or minimise the risks to health associated with handling cytotoxic drugs and related waste, including their preparation, administration, handling, storage, movement and disposal, and spills management, within health care establishments and community settings. It aims to assist in the development and implementation of safe work systems and risk control procedures.

### **[Indigenous resources](#)**

#### **Northern Territory Aboriginal Interpreter Service**

The Aboriginal Interpreter Service helps to alleviate the language barriers faced by Indigenous persons throughout the Northern Territory particularly in relation to health and legal issues. The Service was established in April 2000 and maintains and utilises a register of Aboriginal interpreters and languages in the Northern Territory. It provides an Aboriginal Language Interpreter Service for government and non-government agencies that require on-site Aboriginal language interpreters with a 24 hour, 7 days a week central booking service.

### **[Key Documents](#)**

#### **Population Based Screening Framework**

Endorsed by the Australian Health Ministers' Council at its 9 October 2008 meeting, the purpose of this framework is to inform decision makers on the key issues to be considered when assessing potential screening programs in Australia, particularly: criteria to assess whether screening should be offered for diseases/conditions including cancer; and the key principles for the implementation and management of screening programs. The framework is underpinned by the principles of access and equity, fundamental elements to all population screening programs, and is intended to provide guidance and inform judgement.

#### **Cancer control: knowledge into action - WHO guide for effective programmes**

WHO has developed a series of six modules that provide practical advice for programme managers and policy-makers on how to advocate, plan and implement effective cancer control programmes, particularly in low and middle income countries. The downloadable modules are: Planning, Prevention, Early Detection, Diagnosis and Treatment, Palliative Care; and Policy and Advocacy.

## [Primary care](#)

### **NCI Risk Assessment Tools**

Doctors can use risk assessment tools to identify patients who may be at higher risk for developing a certain type of cancer to discuss the situation with their patients, to develop a risk reduction plan and to develop a screening schedule. Interactive tools for estimating risk for breast, melanoma and colorectal cancers are available on the website.

## [Supportive Care resources](#)

### **Maintaining your well-being: Information on depression and anxiety for men with prostate cancer and their partners**

*beyondblue* and the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia (PCFA) have developed an important resource to which health professionals can refer and direct their patients diagnosed with prostate cancer and their partners. The booklet "Maintaining your well-being: Information on depression and anxiety for men with prostate cancer and their partners" provides information on common reactions to a diagnosis of prostate cancer; the cancer journey; helpful strategies to deal with signs of distress, depression and anxiety including information regarding how to seek help for these conditions.

### **Life After Cancer: A guide for cancer survivors**

A booklet health professionals can provide to their patients focusing on the issues affecting cancer survivors following the completion of their treatment, including advice for returning to a 'normal' life, dealing with practical issues such as follow up care, long term side effects, staying healthy and information regarding anxiety and depression.

### **Cancer Forum: Survivorship**

The latest edition of [Cancer Forum](#) (November 2009, 33(3), the official journal of the Clinical Oncological Society of Australia (COSA), is dedicated to the topical subject of survivorship and issues faced by both health professionals and patients when considering life after cancer.

### **Submit a resource**

If you would like to share any resources or information you have found useful, please click the [submit resource](#) link on the website. We also welcome your comments and [feedback](#), so let us know what you think of Cancer Learning, particularly the new enhancements! Just click the [feedback](#) link on the front page.

Till next month, happy learning!

**The Cancer Learning Team**

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