

Welcome to the [Cancer Learning](#) newsletter for September, as we get into the business end of 2010! This month we are very excited to launch three new initiatives on the website – the Prevention, Screening and Risk section, the Non Clinical Skills section and the Occupational Therapy professional development pathway. We also launch the first of our new tumour stream specific pages this month, the lung cancer stream which will be featured at the Cancer Australia booth at the Lung Cancer conference (see below in the Events section). These new pages will help you broaden the scope of your cancer CPD - see below in News for further details and let us know what you think of these sections on our [feedback](#) form or email [info@cancerlearning.gov.au](mailto:info@cancerlearning.gov.au) and [submit](#) any resources or activities you have developed or use that we can include on these pages. And keep an eye out for the October Cancer Learning newsletter where we will launch of a whole new section on Cancer Learning, just in time for the COSA ASM in November – we're finishing the year off with a bang!

## News

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### **New Cancer Learning sections in Find**

Check out the new sections now featuring on Cancer Learning:

The [Prevention, Screening and Risk](#) pages that contains [resources](#) and [activities](#) related to developing your knowledge and skills in cancer etiology, screening programs and early intervention.

The [Non Clinical Skills](#) section features [resources](#) and [activities](#) that recognise the need for health care professionals to develop general skills outside their clinical knowledge in areas such as leadership, communication, administration, management and supervision.

In response to user feedback and requests for cancer specific information to be available on Cancer Learning, the most prevalent cancers in Australia were selected for the development of the [Tumour Streams](#) section, featuring tumour-specific professional development resources and activities structured along the stages of the patient journey identified in the [Cancer Professional Development Framework](#), and in the priority areas of cancer service delivery. Lung cancer is the first stream to be launched this month - we will bring you breast, prostate, colorectal and melanoma in the coming months.

### **New professional development pathway – [Occupational Therapy](#)**

We are very grateful to the time and effort offered to Cancer Learning by the health professionals who assisted us in compiling the [Occupational Therapy](#) professional development pathway. We hope it is a useful guide to advancing your occupational therapy skills and progressing your career. We welcome other Occupational Therapists working in cancer and palliative care to contribute to the pathway, sharing any resources, activities or events that you have found useful to develop your practice with other OTs.

### **[EdCaN](#) learning resources**

Have you looked at the [Cancer Treatments](#) section of the EdCaN resources – it contains a wealth of fundamental information, resources and activities about a range of treatments and their associated issues that is vital for all nurses working with cancer patients, including: [treatment planning](#), [surgery](#), [radiotherapy](#), [antineoplastic agent therapy](#), [biological and molecular targeted therapies](#) and [haematopoietic stem cell transplantation](#).

### [Patient safety in primary health care: discussion paper](#)

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care is seeking to clarify its understanding of patient safety issues in primary health care in Australia, including identifying key priorities and solutions both nationally and internationally that could be applied to the Australian primary healthcare context. The Commission will be accepting written submissions up to 15 October 2010. Submissions marked 'Patient Safety in Primary Health Care' should be forwarded to: GPO Box 5480 SYDNEY NSW 2001. Or emailed to: [mail@safetyandquality.gov.au](mailto:mail@safetyandquality.gov.au)

Please be aware that in order to ensure transparency and promote a robust discussion, all submissions will be published on the Commission's website, including the names of individuals and /or organisations making the submission. The Commission will consider requests to withhold the contents of any submissions made in whole or part.

### [Upcoming Events](#)

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

- The Australian Lung Foundation will host the 3rd Australian Lung Cancer Conference, *Emerging Evidence*, from on 7 – 9 October 2010 at the The Sofitel on Collins in Melbourne. A Lung Cancer Nurses' workshop will be held on the day before the conference start on 6th October. Visit the Cancer Australia booth to see Cancer Learning in action, or view the poster regarding the new lung cancer stream – No 32 in the poster section. The presentation for this poster is 4:40pm on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October if you would like to join us.
- You'd better hurry if you haven't yet registered for the 2010 COSA ASM in Melbourne from 9- 11 November 2010: details are available: <http://www.cosa2010.org/>
- The Inaugural Biomarker Discovery Conference (BDC 2010) will be held in Shoal Bay, NSW from Monday December 6 - Friday December 10, 2010, featuring international experts, showcasing the latest innovations in Biomarker Discovery using genomic, proteomic and metabolomic tools and methods in fields including Cancer and Neurobiology, and including specialist workshops on aspects of biomarker discovery, bioinformatics and applications. A special early career research and student award will also be awarded during the conference, with thanks to the Hunter Medical Research Foundation.
- The National Consortium of Breast Centers, a US based non-profit organization, invites you to attend the 21st Annual National Interdisciplinary Breast Center Conference at Planet Hollywood Resort and Casino, Las Vegas, NV from 12-16 March 2011. Sessions offer learning events applicable to doctors, nurses, surgeons, radiologists, administrators, patient navigators and anyone else on the breast center team. Vendor displays and poster reception allow opportunities to view the very latest technologies and techniques in a professional yet relaxing environment.

### [New on Cancer Learning in September](#)

Don't forget to look for the "New" sign on all recently added resources...

Some of the new resources for September include:

### [Evidence and Latest Treatments learning activities](#)

#### **HemOnc Today: Clinical News in Oncology and Hematology**

HEM/ONC TODAY strives to be the global, definitive information source for oncology and hematology professionals by delivering timely, accurate, authoritative and balanced reports on

clinical issues, socioeconomic topics and industry developments, as well as presenting clinically relevant information on medical therapies for the benefit of the patient. The latest research, evidence and CME activities are available about specific tumour streams and users can register to receive free email updates from the site.

### **BMJ Learning module: Evidence Based Practice – A Users Guide**

Evidence based practice is a key skill for modern clinical professionals. This peer reviewed module was written by Bob Philips, associate fellow, Centre for Evidence-based Medicine, Oxford, to introduce this topic and to help learners start on their own learning journey. After completing this module you should be able to outline the reasons for evidence based practice, begin to answer your own clinical questions and understand the concept of "number needed to treat."

### **VTE in Cancer Patients: A Case-Based Approach to Risk Assessment and Management**

VTE is the second leading cause of death in cancer patients, and the presence of VTE in patients with cancer has been reported to increase the likelihood of death by 2- to 8-fold. At the conclusion of this program, physicians should be better able to describe the pathogenesis of venous thromboembolism (VTE) in patients with cancer, identify risk factors for VTE in cancer patients and appropriately select patients for prophylaxis, Apply the latest clinical practice guidelines in selecting anticoagulant therapy for patients with cancer and compare and contrast the risks and benefits of antithrombotic agents used in the prevention and treatment of VTE in oncology patients. The module includes an activity and a post test.

## **[Evidence and Latest Treatments resources](#)**

### **Primary Care Collaborative Cancer Clinical Trials Group (PC4TG)**

The Primary Care Collaborative Cancer Clinical Trials Group (PC4TG) funded by Cancer Australia to develop and conduct cancer research in primary care. The Group fosters collaboration between researchers, health care practitioners and consumers to build research capacity and infrastructure, enable the development of pre-trial studies, leading to large-scale, multi-site studies, fill the evidence gaps in oncology in primary care and improve health outcomes and care for cancer patients.

### **BMJ Case Reports**

BMJ Case Reports aims to publish a high volume of cases in all disciplines so that healthcare professionals, researchers and others can easily find clinically important information on common and rare conditions. All articles are peer reviewed and copy edited before publication. Case reports published in other BMJ Journals will also be adapted for publication on BMJ Case Reports. The full text of all Editor's Choice articles and summaries of every article are free without registration, however you need to sign in to receive content alerts. Only fellows are full access to all case reports. Information on becoming a fellow is available on the site.

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

### **Central Venous Access Devices: Principles for Nursing Practice and Education Summary and Recommendations**

Developed by the Cancer Nurses Society of Australia, this is a summary and recommendations for the educational and competency requirements for nursing caring for patients with Central Venous Access Devices (CVADs).

## **[Coordination of Care learning activities](#)**

### **Cancer Care Patient Navigation: A Call to Action online resource**

The Association of Community Cancer Centers' Center for Provider Education provides this Cancer Care Patient Navigation: A Call to Action online resource. ACCC launched this project to identify barriers to access to care that patient navigation can address; increase successful implementation of patient navigation services, refine staffing models establish effective metrics for

measuring patient navigation services internally and for benchmarking patient navigation services against other community cancer centers. The toolkit contains patient navigation guides, guidelines and tools.

### **Multidisciplinary Care resources**

*The Organization of Multidisciplinary Care Teams: Modeling Internal and External Influences on Cancer Care Quality*

This article, written by Mary L Fennell, Irene Prabhu Das, Steven Clauser, Nicholas Petrelli and Andrew Salner and published in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute Monographs (2010;40:72–80), this article examines a particular type of organizational structure purported to regularize and streamline the communication between multiple specialists and support services involved in cancer treatment: the multidisciplinary treatment care (MDC) team.

### **Supportive Care learning activities**

There are three new free BMJ Learning modules available in this section this month:

- The Palliative Care in the Community module assists health professionals to have a better understanding of how best to use opioids in the community (including how to switch drugs and routes of administration); be more confident recognising and treating common events in the last years of life, such as breathlessness, constipation, spinal cord compression, superior vena cava obstruction and hypercalcaemia; be more aware of sources of support for patients and know when to refer patients to a specialist.
- The Depression in Adults with a Chronic Health Problem module, (in association with NICE) uses a guideline that makes recommendations on the identification, treatment, and management of depression in adults aged 18 years and older who also have a chronic physical health problem (such as cancer, heart disease, diabetes, or a musculoskeletal, respiratory, or neurological disorder).
- Managing the Impact of a Diagnosis of Cancer assists health professionals to appreciate better the psychological implication of receiving a diagnosis of cancer; understand the ongoing needs of patients and their carers through treatment and beyond and help patients access the resources they need.

### **Supportive Care resources**

#### **Cancer Survivorship resources**

ACCC has released a set of multimedia resources for community cancer programs to help develop, enhance, and expand services to cancer survivors in their home communities including the “Survivorship Care Plan Builder” software based on ASCO® Chemotherapy Treatment Summary templates and Surveillance Guidelines that you can use to quickly summarize patients' diagnosis, treatment, and follow up care and enhance care plans with valuable information on symptoms to watch for, effects of treatment, and local and national resources.

### **AYA**

#### **Cancer Care Young Adults Program**

A range of podcasts and publications for health professionals, patients and their families regarding the issues and supportive care needs of young adults with cancer and adolescent children who have parents with cancer.

[www.nowwhat.org.au](http://www.nowwhat.org.au)

Developed by CanTeen, this is a free online resource that health professionals can access and provide to their adolescent and young adult cancer patients to provide them with resources and links to information about AYA specific issues, including relationships, tests and treatments, day to day issues, grief and loss and survivorship. An online networking forum is also available to

registered users who wish to share information and support each other during their cancer journey.

## **Geriatrics**

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

This article (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) examines the need for improved interdisciplinary communication and cooperation between the fields of oncology and geriatrics and discusses the outcomes of a national interdisciplinary workshop convened by the Clinical Oncological Society of Australia in April 2008.

## **Indigenous**

### ***I Don't Want to Be in That Big City; This Is My Country Here: Research Findings on Aboriginal Peoples Preference to Die At Home***

This qualitative research article (McGrath, Pam (2007), "I Don't Want to Be in That Big City; This Is My Country Here: Research Findings on Aboriginal Peoples Preference to Die At Home", *Journal of Rural Health*. 15,4:264-268), provides findings from a two-year study on Indigenous palliative care conducted in the Northern Territory that explored and documented wishes in relation to place of death for rural and remote Aboriginal people.

## **Paediatrics**

### **End-of-life care for Children**

The Texas Children's Cancer Centre End-of-Life Care for Children website contains information and resources to assist health professionals to care for children and their families at the end-of-life. Information is included regarding difficult decisions, supporting family caregivers, physical care of the dying child, psychosocial care of the family and helping professionals care for dying children.

## **Primary Care**

### **Side effects of chemotherapy – a practical guide for primary care.**

A free online learning module developed for BMJ Learning. 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.

### **Medicare Items: Helping You Deliver Comprehensive Cancer Care**

Developed by CanNET and Cancer Australia, this information is organised according to the National [Service Improvement Framework for Cancer Services \(NSIF\)](#) and [Cancer Professional Development Framework](#) priority areas, this document presents a summary of Medicare Items related to cancer care delivery.

## **Work/life Balance**

### **Australian Centre for Grief and Bereavement Training Programs**

As the largest national provider of grief and bereavement education, the Australian Centre for Grief and Bereavement offers a range of customised training and consultancy services that provide informed, high quality, professional development programs that meet the specialist training needs of organisations, groups and individuals. The Australian Centre for Grief and Bereavement has provided training and consultation to many organisations and programs within local government, schools and school support services, hospitals, university departments, health centres, residential care services and community groups. Training can take place in venues throughout Australia or at training facilities at the Australian Centre for Grief and Bereavement.

Don't forget to let us know what you think of the new sections that are being added to [Cancer Learning](#) and suggest any ideas you may have for improvements to the site by emailing [info@cancerlearning.gov.au](mailto:info@cancerlearning.gov.au) or completing the online [feedback](#) form.

Til next month, happy learning!

**The Cancer Learning Team**

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