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The delivery of best practice nursing care to cancer patients requires a sound understanding of the contemporary literature, key evidence and internationally accepted standards. In an environment of rapidly changing and increasingly complex treatments, compounded by a less experienced/specialised and time-poor workforce, haematology nurses are finding it more difficult to achieve this in a timely manner.

The Cancer Institute NSW Standard Cancer Treatment program (CI-SCaT) content team, in conjunction with nurse clinicians from NSW and interstate, identify clinically relevant protocols for inclusion on this web-based resource. The CI-SCaT team develops the protocols based on the latest evidence blended with current practice.

After discussion with, and approval by, the nurse clinicians, the completed protocols are uploaded to the website. Protocols provided are safe, evidence-based, freely available online, provide expert guidance and may negate the necessity for each individual facility having to write, review and update protocols.

CI-SCaT has now been available for two years, over which time the patterns of uptake and acceptance have changed. There were a number of early change champions who embraced the resource from the start as it was obvious how it would aid local practice. For others, CI-SCaT was, and is perceived as, a challenge to the autonomy of individual practice, but more recently it appears there is an increasing recognition of the potential benefits as use of the website increases.

Work is underway on an independent evaluation of CI-SCaT's integration into the clinical environment, development of a more flexible and functional website, and finalisation of the strategic plan up to 2010, all of which have been guided by extensive clinician input.

The increasingly widespread acceptance of CI-SCaT as a reliable source of nursing protocols blending evidence with practical realities will, it is hoped, lead to a more streamlined patient journey and, therefore, improved patient outcomes.