

From CI-SCaT to eviQ

A Bridge for Evidence Based Cancer Treatment Delivery

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ABSTRACT

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From CI-SCaT to eviQ

Designed by a medical oncologist to reduce unnecessary practice variation, the Cancer Institute NSW developed CI-SCaT (www.treatment.cancerinstitute.org.au), a single online repository of standardised, evidence based, and peer reviewed cancer treatments. The resource offers clinicians in all clinical and geographical settings free 24 hour access to current and safe information relevant to the Australian context. Its value was quickly realised, with monthly hits increasing from an initial 64,000 in August 2005 to well over 410,000 in late 2007, and usage expanding from some NSW health facilities to nearly all Australian facilities providing cancer services. This unexpected popularity in the first two years and constant requests for additional information to be on this website led the Cancer Institute NSW to embark on a strategic review to determine the breadth of its clinical application and what future direction it should take.

A triangulated method (online survey n=222, focus groups n=60, individual interviews n=30) was used in 2007 to collect qualitative and quantitative data from a variety of relevant internal and external metropolitan and regional NSW and interstate clinicians in relation to what they used CI-SCaT for, how they used CI-SCaT and how often, whether access to CI-SCaT had changed their approach to treatment delivery, and their views on its strengths and weaknesses. Overall results indicated that CI-SCaT played an important role in a number of areas – 92% viewed CI-SCaT as playing an important role in providing cancer treatment, 50% considered CI-SCaT as the default source of treatment information at the point of care, 86% regarded the CI-SCaT interface as easy to use and understand, and 87% considered the clinical governance processes around the information appropriate. The regard for the resource is clearly highlighted in one respondent's overall comment – "CI-SCaT has proved to be an invaluable tool. I don't know how we managed without it".

The continued increase in usage, now receiving over 500,000 monthly hits, and evaluation results have led to the website being redesigned to accommodate the clinician's need for staged information, additional information (primary health care, palliative care), and customisable features to augment daily access. Rebranded as eviQ (www.eviq.org.au) – collections of evidence (evi) coming together to answer the questions and provide quality outcomes (Q), the new website will be launched in June 2009, and further evaluation from Australian clinicians is planned for 2009/2010 in relation to workflow articulation and augmentation, ease of use, and impact on patient outcomes.