



Title: Using an IT Application to deliver standardised cancer information at the point of care.

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Sub Theme

Reliable Health Knowledge

Title:

Using an IT Application to deliver standardised cancer information at the point of care.

Objectives:

The delivery of optimal treatment to cancer patients requires clinicians to have a comprehensive understanding of contemporary literature, key evidence, and internationally acceptable standards. Obtaining this information for use at the point of care is challenging for time poor clinicians, particularly for those working in rural and remote areas.

Background:

CI-SCaT (Cancer Institute Standard Cancer Treatments) is a web based information repository, designed by a medical oncologist that provides comprehensive information about cancer treatments. This application is available 24 hours a day via the Internet, at no cost, and without access restrictions. Its successful clinical governance has resulted in strong clinician buy-in within Australia, and an unexpected popularity (over 400,000 hits and 20,000 user sessions monthly).

Methods:

In 2007 we utilised three methods to evaluate CI-SCaT's position in the clinical arena - online surveys, face-to-face interviews, and focus groups. This multi-method evaluation was also supported by web log statistics, revealing over 400,000 hits and 20,000 user sessions each month.

Results:

We identified that 92% of clinicians felt that CI-SCaT played an important role in providing cancer treatment information and that 87% recommended the resource to their peers. Additionally the evaluation demonstrated that CI-SCaT empowers selected groups of health professionals. Strong continued support for CI-SCaT shows it is looked upon as a credible resource with an established position within Australian cancer services facilities.

Conclusion:

CI-SCaT is a unique innovative resource making available peer reviewed information supported by scientific evidence accessible at the point of care. Having access to this



information ensures that clinicians are confidently and competently delivering evidence based, clinician endorsed cancer treatments to patients. It also ensures that patients are afforded an opportunity to take an active part in decisions about their health care relating to treatment, prevention, and management of symptoms and side effects.