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To deliver optimal treatment to cancer patients, oncology nurses need to have a comprehensive understanding of contemporary literature, key evidence, and internationally acceptable standards.

In August 2005, the Cancer Institute (New South Wales) activated CI-SCaT (Cancer Institute Standard Cancer Treatments), a single web-based Australian repository of standardised, evidence-based treatment protocols.

This website is a uniquely holistic resource providing clinicians with comprehensive information required for the safe administration of each treatment, and consumers with a plain language 'patient view' of each treatment and its side effects.

Designed by medical oncologist, Professor Robyn Ward, this resource continues to be further developed by a dedicated project team within the Cancer Institute, its strong clinical governance structure resulting in increasingly significant clinician buy-in nationally, and internationally.

The process of delivering each standardised, evidence-based treatment protocol involves the following:

- 1/ protocol identification
- 2/ detailed literature searches to obtain
  - key evidence
  - dose modification information
  - comparative efficacy and toxicity
- 3/ preparation of draft version for dissemination to expert reference group
- 4/ review and editing of protocol until consensus is reached within relevant reference group
- 5/ review and editing of patient information by health care consumer

The CI-SCaT website enables nurses to confirm they are practising within acceptable clinical guidelines. It contains comprehensive information about chemotherapy protocols (including step-by-step administration principles), potential side effects, relevant clinical guidelines, and much more.

Patient Information Sheets, written in simple layman terminology, are provided for each protocol, and nurses often use these as a starting point for focussed discussion with each patient.