

TOPIC AREA = BEST PRACTICE or CLINICAL REDESIGN or CLINICAL PRACTICE IMPROVEMENT or CLINICAL GOVERNANCE

COLLABORATION, CONSENSUS, AND CLINICAL VISION - BENEFITS OF THE CI-SCaT PROGRAM

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In order to deliver optimal treatment to cancer patients, clinicians need to have a comprehensive understanding of contemporary literature, key evidence, and internationally acceptable standards. The Cancer Institute Standard Cancer Treatments (CI-SCaT), a single web-based Australian repository of standardised, evidence-based treatment protocols, is a uniquely holistic resource that not only provides clinicians with comprehensive information required for the safe administration of each treatment, but also provides consumers with a plain language 'patient perspective' of each treatment and its side effects. Originally designed by Professor Robyn Ward at the St Vincent's Hospital (Sydney), this resource has been developed by a dedicated project team within the Cancer Institute, strong clinician buy-in within Australia, and a successful clinical governance model. Rather than each oncology facility writing, reviewing, and updating treatment protocols for cancer patients, the CI-SCaT team, in conjunction with clinicians in NSW and interstate cancer services, identify existing protocols, undertake detailed literature searches to obtain key evidence, dose modifications, and comparative efficacy and toxicity, and prepare draft versions for dissemination to an expert reference group. Each treatment protocol is then subjected to rigorous scrutiny at a reference group workshop until a consensus is reached. Approved protocols are then placed on the resource, and are subjected to an annual review of content. Patient information is reviewed and edited separately by a health care consumer. With nearly 200 protocols currently available on the website, future planning is expected to encompass a wider clinical audience, ensuring the availability of current cancer treatment to all clinicians.