

working procedure and protective equipment needed. Besides the different procedures information on how to handle waste that has been in contact with cytostatic drugs, what to do in case of a spillage, how to handle patient excreta and how to handle laundry were also defined.

Results: The guidelines are available on a Compact Disc which can be used on a stand alone computer, on the internet or intranet or combined in a e-learning program. Each procedure is shown by realistic pictures accompanied by written text and a voiceover explaining the procedure. This way the program applies to the different learning strategies (hearing, seeing and reading) of each individual. A print of each procedure can be made.

The CD is part of a complete package consisting of management guidelines on how to implement the program, cost implications, an overview of protective equipment needed with requirements and suppliers.

Conclusion: With "DIC" healthcare professionals in the home care setting are able to work safely with patients receiving cytostatic drugs.

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POSTER

Education tool – cancer in the elderly

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Background: The aging of the Dutch population in general and the growing number of older people being treated for cancer leads to more patients with complex problems. With this knowledge, the Dutch Oncology Nursing Society wrote out an assignment to develop an education program. This program will enhance the competence of (oncology) nurses to deal with cancer in the elderly.

Purpose: The main aim of the project is to prepare the oncology nurse to deal with the specific, complex problems and to enhance multi-professional working relations between oncology and gerontology teams to improve outcomes for older people with cancer.

Method: A group of experts in the field of oncology, geriatrics and education worked together following the Core Curriculum Cancer in the Elderly from EONS and the Dutch competence profile for the oncology nurse.

Result: The outcome of several meetings led to an education tool. The framework of this tool is a CD-box containing five CD's. Each CD's has its own theme:

1. perception of the elderly
2. specific elderly problems
3. ethics
4. communication
5. continuation

Besides working with this CD-box, an internet application is also available: www.leermenu.nl

The five CD's can be used together or separately. The structure of each CD is equal; an entry questionnaire, a theoretical component, several assignments and a final questionnaire. Within each theme links are presented to other themes, internet, literature et cetera. The education tool can be used as set for self-learning, in a clinical team or in post basic training.

By the end of June 2007 the last CD/theme was finished. The Dutch Oncology Nursing Society constantly monitors, evaluates and adjusts the contents of the themes, to make assure it fits the needs of the nurses as well as the elderly patient with cancer.

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POSTER

Integration of family nursing into the daily care of cancer patients

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Introduction: There are increasing demands on nurses to include families in the care of patients. It is well known that when one family member becomes seriously ill, other family members become affected as well. In spite of the literature emphasising the benefits of family nursing, research indicates that many family needs are unmet and nurses tend to avoid close contact with the family.

Method: An intervention was designed on how to apply "The 15-minute family interview" (Wright and Leahey, 2000) into the daily care of cancer patients and their families within the department of oncology, hematology

and palliative care. The goal of the intervention was to improve the nurses communication with families and it should be reflected in the nursing documentation. Before the intervention a baseline spot check of all patient charts was carried out; all nursing-staff received a lecture on family needs in malignant illness; headnurses nominated two key nurses on respective units to act as change agents and to guide other nurses.

The intervention included a 2-day workshops for key-nurses and a shorter workshop for other nurses followed by weekly support on the wards for 3 months. Furthermore the key nurses checked on family nursing documentation every second week for 5 months and regular focus meetings were held with the key nurses. After the intervention the key nurses do a monthly check on family nursing documentation; a annual spot check of all patient charts and focus meetings with the key nurses have continued. Workshops for all new nurses have continued biannually.

Result: From start of the project in November 2004 – February 2007, 88 nursing-staff members have attended the workshops. The majority evaluated the workshop to be very good/good. The result of the first spot check on family documentation showed that during a one year period the overall documentation improved by 20%. The main improvement was seen in documentation of genograms (65.4%) and family related nursing diagnosis (54.4%). Focus meetings with the key nurses revealed that the project was perceived to be empowering and provided them with security and focus in their encounters with families.

Conclusion: The intervention was successful in improving family nursing on the units and the workshops will be ongoing as a part of basic staff education in providing quality family nursing. Other hospital units are preparing to use the same model to improve family nursing.

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POSTER

Opportunities for improving cancer training and education for nurses using the web based Cancer Specialist Library

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Background: The Cancer Specialist Library website (part of the UK National Library for Health) is an ideal mechanism for assisting in the education and training of nursing and other health professionals involved in cancer care.

Materials and Methods: The Cancer Specialist Library website went 'live' in April 2005, and is freely available to all web users. It provides a variety of methods for accessing evidence based medical literature on all cancer types and topics. Well-performed systematic reviews provide the most reliable answers to health care questions and the Library uses a rigorous, transparent methodology to identify all relevant cancer systematic reviews (including Cochrane) published since 2000.

Results: Online Resources include:

1. 'Core information', which is assembled following a thorough search of the medical literature and relating to each cancer site. This is organised into 'Guidelines', 'Evidence', 'References' and 'Patient Information' Sections.
2. A Section which provides 'Knowledge Updates' and a 'Map' of contents relating to each cancer site, to allow easy access for the web browser.
3. Another collaborative project has been the promotion of National Knowledge Weeks (NKWs) for several of the commoner cancers. There have been six NKWs to date, two each for Breast Cancer (2005 & 2006) and Prostate Cancer (2006 & 2007), and one each for Lung Cancer (2006) and Colo-rectal cancer (2007). NKWs are planned for other cancer types over the next year.

The Steering Committee for each NKW include the Cancer Specialist Library staff, a National Clinical Lead considered an expert in the relevant cancer field, and a major Cancer Charity to provide 'User' input. Between ten and twenty health professionals are invited to form the NKW Advisory Panel, and together with the Steering Group suggest topic areas. Cancer Library staff conducts a thorough search of relevant data bases to match resources to the chosen topic areas.

The resources identified are for the most part presented as abstracts, with links to full text in a proportion of cases.

Learning modules are being developed and will be piloted during 2007.

Conclusion: The Cancer Specialist Library is building a comprehensive and easily accessible range of documents relating to all aspects of cancer care, and has the potential to be used for the training and education of cancer health care professionals with access to a computer, encouraging evidence based practice.