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Corrigendum

Corrigendum to “Harnessing the power of information and communication technologies to meet patients’ informational needs” [EJC Supplements, 3 (2005) 479, Abstract 1662] ☆

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Over the last decade, the drive towards outpatient and community based health services, which has received increasing support from socio-political spheres, has permeated cancer care, resulting in the increased delivery of cancer treatment on an out-patient basis (Department of Health, 2001; Scottish Executive, 2003). This has indisputable implications for patients as they can experience multiple needs in relation to symptom management, self-care and support. Furthermore, during the short time that they do spend with health professionals, they can often have difficulty accurately recalling the symptoms they have experienced (Hinton, 1996; McMillan and Moody, 2003). However, it also has implications for the health professionals caring for them, insofar as they have severely reduced contact time with patients during which to educate, assess, intervene and provide information and support in relation to symptom management. The recent, rapid growth of the mobile technologies and the telecommunications industry has allowed for the emergence of new and cre-

ative ways to not only strengthen the design and delivery of healthcare but consequently to support improvements in patient care (Health, 2002; Maglaveras et al., 2002; NHS, 1998). Given the recent drive to exploit IT systems in promoting patient care and supporting patients at home (Health, 2002; Scottish Executive, 2005), the use of patient based IT support systems to enhance symptom assessment, management and communication with health professionals needs to be developed and suitably evaluated for its impact on patient outcomes and patient care. This paper will discuss the innovative use of information technology and how as nurses we can harness technological advances to enhance our communication with patients and ensure their information needs are met. Current use of information and communication technologies will be considered and opportunities for the future explored.

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☆ Please note the abstract that appeared in the above mentioned issue of EJC Supplements was the incorrect version.
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