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WIDENING ACCESS; DEVELOPING A COMMUNITY E-LEARNING RESOURCE FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS CARING FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH CANCER

Abstract:

Cancer is a key priority, locally, nationally and internationally and caring for children and young people with cancer requires a range of specific knowledge, skills and experience to deliver complex care regimes both within the hospital or community environment (National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) 2005).

The overall aim of this study was to design and develop eLearning resources for health professionals caring for children and young people with cancer across the globe. This research builds upon the original course which was developed and delivered through the Paediatric Oncology Nurses Forum (PONF), Royal College Nursing (Nurse Educators) and Warwick University however this has now ceased to run. The previous course had 10196 members from 118 countries across the globe with free access 24/7.

This research project is instrumental to the design, development and delivery pedagogical practice and innovation. With colleagues from across the United Kingdom specialist group, Children's Cancer and Leukaemia, an authentic eLearning course was developed. The course was developed from findings carried out from a research study. A survey questionnaire with open and closed questions was developed and circulated to all health professionals involved directly within specialist oncology services through the specialist group. The questionnaire was designed and developed through Edinburgh Napier University Novi software and information and informed consent was built into this tool. Ethical permission was granted from the School of Nursing and Midwifery ethical committee and the questionnaires were sent out via the specialist group to a convenience sample of 700 health care professionals. The Children's Cancer and Leukaemia Group supports practice development, research and education for children and young people with cancer throughout the United Kingdom and are a multi-professional group.

Findings from the study supported the development of technology enhanced learning in an innovative and creative way. Podcasts, patient stories and short film have been designed and developed along with content and information that will support health professionals in practice. This is purely an e learning resource followed up with monthly community chat discussion.

This study was funded through the Teaching fellow Grants Application. Thank you.