

Wednesday, 6 September 2023

Cancer Institute NSW

Category 1: UICC Full member organisation

Impact

The Cancer Institute New South Wales (NSW) Australia, deserves a nomination for the outstanding leadership of the eviQ program. As Australia's first state-wide government cancer agency, the institute has made significant contributions to cancer care. eviQ (eviQ.org.au) delivers freely accessible online cancer treatment protocols developed by multidisciplinary teams of specialists in Australia. The program aims to enhance patient outcomes and minimise treatment variation by providing evidence-based information to support healthcare professionals.

The program operates through nine reference committees, covering adult and paediatric oncology, haematology, bone marrow transplantation, medical oncology, cancer genetics and radiation oncology. These committees ensure thorough review and alignment of protocols with the latest research and best practices.

eviQ's wide-reaching impact is reflected in its extensive user base, with a monthly count of 112,519 individuals, including both domestic and international healthcare professionals. The program has garnered global recognition, with 46.8% of users being international. In the first half of 2023, Australian users generated 271,441 visits, while healthcare professionals from 214 countries contributed to 238,880 visits, showcasing the global relevance of eviQ.

With over 1,110 cancer treatment protocols, eviQ covers a wide range of cancer types and treatment modalities. This comprehensive resource equips healthcare professionals with up-to-date, evidence-based guidelines and recommendations, promoting standardized care and reducing treatment variation.

In conclusion, eviQ is freely accessible online cancer treatment protocols have positioned it as a worthy nominee for this award. The program's significant impact on cancer control, through contributions in protocol development, patient support, and clinical work, has benefitted healthcare professionals and patients on a global scale. This recognition acknowledges eviQ's ability to reach frontline clinicians and individuals worldwide, ensuring equitable access to evidence-based cancer treatment for all.

Equity

eviQ has made remarkable efforts to ensure equitable access to information on the safe delivery of cancer treatments and management of toxicities. From its inception, eviQ has been freely available, allowing users from low- and middle-income countries to access information to support patient care and decision-making.

To enhance accessibility, eviQ has translated 10 patient information sheets on managing side effects into over 11 languages. This initiative ensures that individuals from diverse linguistic backgrounds can benefit from the resources provided by eviQ. Moreover, eviQ actively collaborates with local non-government organisations and patient associations, fostering partnerships that enrich and strengthen its daily operations.

eviQ has also developed targeted resources to support Aboriginal Health Workers (AHWs) in assisting First Nations people with cancer. This initiative recognizes the importance of culturally appropriate support and acknowledges the unique challenges faced by Indigenous communities in accessing and navigating cancer care in Australia.

eviQ's protocols adhere to the standards of the World Health Organization (WHO) Model Lists of Essential Medicines (EML). These protocols guarantee compliance with the EML by ensuring that all necessary anti-cancer drugs are listed in the 21st* WHO Essential Medicines List from June 2019, irrespective of the specific indication. To emphasize this alignment, eviQ protocols include a link to the Essential Medicines List, enabling healthcare professionals to quickly access the recommended medications.

This adherence to the WHO Model Lists of Essential Medicines underscores eviQ's commitment to evidence-based guidelines and recommendations. By providing reliable and comprehensive information, eviQ empowers healthcare professionals to deliver effective cancer treatments.

Overall, eviQ's commitment to providing equitable access to cancer treatment information, its translation efforts, and collaborations with local organisations and patient associations demonstrate its dedication to supporting healthcare professionals and patients globally. The program's efforts in providing targeted resources for specific communities contribute to its significant impact in cancer care.

*Acknowledging the 22nd edition now published

Global recognition

Most recently, eviQ took the lead in developing the International Consensus Guideline for Anticancer Drug Dosing in Kidney Dysfunction (ADDIKD). As a renowned provider of point-of-care information for cancer healthcare professionals in Australia and widely utilised across 214 countries, eviQ was well-positioned to initiate and host the finalized International Consensus Guideline for Anticancer Drug Dosing in Kidney Dysfunction (ADDIKD).

Developed in partnership with internationally renowned experts, this ground-breaking guideline represents the first evidence-based supportive tool for decision-making in the assessment of kidney function and dose adjustments for anticancer drugs in individuals with kidney dysfunction. Its primary objective is to enhance the safe and effective delivery of cancer treatments. By integrating this guideline into eviQ treatment protocols, its international dissemination and recognition as a clinical benchmark will be further advanced.

eviQ forged close ties with the international cancer community having previously worked with the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) in reviewing and updating the inclusion of cancer drugs and on the World Health Organization (WHO) Model List of Essential Medicines for Adults. The programs contributions to cancer control have earned it recognition and visibility as a trusted resource on the UICC International Cancer Control Partnership portal.

In conclusion, eviQ has become a globally recognized resource in cancer care. The program's international user base has significantly grown, reflecting its wide appeal and impact. The consistent increase in monthly users from 2018 to 2022 is a testament to its global recognition. With 238,880 users from 214 countries benefiting from its resources, eviQ has established its influence across diverse regions. The rising percentage of international users, now at 46.8%, compared to 43% in 2022, demonstrates the program's growing global recognition. This expanding user base highlights eviQ's role in supporting healthcare professionals and improving cancer care worldwide.