

SESLHD POLICY COVER SHEET



Health
South Eastern Sydney
Local Health District

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1. POLICY STATEMENT

This policy outlines the use of eviQ within South Eastern Sydney Local Health District (SESLHD) and defines the process for meeting the *Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, Safety and Quality Improvement Guide Standard 4: Medication Safety (November 2017)*.

2. BACKGROUND

This policy is to ensure that clinical cancer practice in SESLHD is evidence-based and research driven.

The Cancer Institute NSW (CINSW) developed an evidence-based electronic data base for Standard Cancer Treatment protocols. It is now called eviQ Cancer Treatments Online.

eviQ is a point of care clinical information resource that provides health professionals with current evidence based, peer reviewed, best practice cancer treatment protocols and information. eviQ is relevant to the Australian clinical environment and can be accessed free 24 hours a day. eviQ is designed to support a busy work flow in all clinical and geographical settings, allowing rural, remote and metropolitan health professionals, patients, carers and their families access to the same standard evidence based information.

eviQ Cancer Treatments Online is a comprehensive information repository containing evidence-based Chemotherapy drug treatment protocols for:

- Medical Oncology by tumour site eg. Breast, Colorectal cancer
- Haematology and Haemopoietic Progenitor Cell Transplant (HPCT)
- External Beam Radiation Therapy (EBRT) by site

It also includes information, tools and resources on:

- Adolescent and Young Adult
- Cancer Genetics
- Nursing
- Clinical Procedures
- Oncological Emergencies
- Palliative Care
- Radiotherapy Oncology

A chemotherapy dosing calculator is located within each specific chemotherapy protocol on the eviQ website.

An opioid conversion calculator is available under Tools & resources. Instructions on use are provided. The eviQ opioid conversion calculator was designed to support clinicians

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in managing patients on opioids. The calculator draws from the 'cautious conversions' end of the spectrum.

These are intended to be used as an adjunct to prescribing.

The protocols and information are developed and approved by specialist clinicians and are reviewed annually.

The site complies with the [HONcode standard for trustworthy health](#) information.

An evaluation study found that the use of formal policies endorsing eviQ are essential to increasing the uptake of this Australian web-based oncology protocol system and thus facilitating the achievement of its main purpose, to reduce treatment variation and improve quality of care (*Hains, Ward, & Pearson 2012*).

3. TARGET AUDIENCE

All SESLHD Cancer Services and related staff providing cancer treatment including:

- Medical Staff
- Nursing staff
- Allied Health staff

4. RESPONSIBILITIES**4.1 Employees will:**

All SESLHD staff providing cancer treatment will act in accordance with this policy:

- Medical Staff
- Nursing staff
- Allied Health staff.

4.2 Line Managers will:

Ensure this policy is followed by all relevant staff.

4.3 District Managers/Service Managers will:

Provide support to staff in the implementation of this procedure as required.

5. PROCEDURE

SESLHD supports patient safety, the delivery of best practice treatment to cancer patients and the provision of up-to-date information on cancer treatment protocols and procedures to Cancer services staff. To ensure this level of care and support is provided, the following principles will apply:

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All policies and procedures approved by the Cancer Institute NSW and displayed on the eviQ website will be adopted and accepted as the standard within SESLHD. If there is a need to make variations to / away from an eviQ policy or procedure, protocols should be derived from the highest level of evidence available. A copy of the research article with administration details and drug dosages should be placed in the patient’s records.

- 5.1 The eviQ website will be accessed via the Cancer Institute NSW website <http://www.cancerinstitute.org.au> or directly via <https://www.eviq.org.au/>
- 5.2 Users must register on the home page to obtain a Member Login username and password.
- 5.3 All new cancer treatments or amendments are to go through the eviQ Protocol Submission Process. Since 2012, all chemotherapy protocols submitted to eviQ will be assigned a unique identifier. The identifier will be assigned irrespective of whether or not the protocol is subsequently developed for display on the eviQ website. The eviQ assigned unique identifiers are now part of the national data dictionary and will be used for reporting and evaluation of cancer treatments.
Once the unique identifier has been assigned, the proposed protocol must be submitted by the LHD for consideration for development as an eviQ endorsed protocol by the national eviQ reference group. The submission form can be found on the Cancer Institute NSW home page: <http://www.cancerinstitute.org.au/> under Protocols, Tools and Resources, Protocol Submissions. Protocols rejected by the national eviQ reference group should not be used.
- 5.4 Any feedback, questions, concerns or comments are to be [emailed](mailto:eviqed@eviq.org.au) to The eviQ Team at eviqed@eviq.org.au and feedback@eviq.org.au
- 5.5 eviQ is not intended to replicate or replace the knowledge, skills, experience, or clinical judgement of experienced health professionals
- 5.6 **Non-eviQ processes:** it is noted that there are exceptional circumstances whereby an eviQ process may not be available e.g. rare tumours or indications, standard therapies which are non-PBS, emergent evidence, protocols/therapies moving through Australian regulatory processes but available on compassionate access, and clinical trials. In the case of these scenarios the local sites/departments must have in place processes for approval of establishment of protocols in the oncology information system (MOSAIQ /ARIA). Refer to local CBR’s links below:

POWH - [MOSAIQ- Chemotherapy Protocol Approval Process POWH CLIN097CBR](#)

STG-TSH - [Chemotherapy Protocol Approval Process within the ARIA Oncology Information System STG-TSH CLIN562](#)

6. DOCUMENTATION

None required.

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7. REFERENCES

[Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards](#) (November 2017)

[Cancer Institute NSW - eviQ Cancer Treatments Online 2014](#)

Hains, I.M., Ward, R.L. & Pearson, S.A. 2012. Implementing a web-based oncology protocol system in Australia: evaluation of the first 3 years of operation. *Internal Medicine Journal*. 42 (1), 57-64.

8. REVISION & APPROVAL HISTORY

| Date | Revision No. | Author and Approval |
|------------|--------------|---|
| April 2014 | 1 | Kim Rigg |
| July 2020 | 2 | Kim Rigg updated links to Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards Non eviQ approval process included. |