

CANCER CENTRE EDUCATION NEWSHEET

October 2007

Please find below all the education events for this month
The Cancer Centre Education Group

Professional Development
Junior Doctor Oncology Teaching

Guest Speaker
Mandatory Training

Departmental Meeting
Palliative Care Education

Date	Topic	Venue	Comment
Oct 1 st	Xeloda update	Chemo Suite Coffee Room (12.30 – 13.30)	Just turn up
2	H & P Training	MSC Meeting Room (14.15 – 15.15)	Karen Harrold, CNS
	Fire, Health and Safety (2 sessions)	MSC Lecture Hall (AM & PM)	Book via Education Team
3 rd	Action Learning Set (Group 2)	MSC Meeting Room (14.15 – 15.15)	Book via Education Team
4 th	Essential Symptom Management Day	MSC Lecture Hall (10.00 – 16.00)	Book via Anni Hall
	Oncology Nurse Development Programme	Marie Curie Lecture Room (14.00-15.15)	Just turn up
	Extravision Awareness	Chemo Suite, Ward 10,11 & MC(10.00– 12.00)	Just Turn Up
5 th	Chemotherapy Update	Chemo Suite Coffee Room (14.30 – 15.30)	Just Turn Up
9 th	Health Care Assistant Day 2	MSC Lecture Hall (10.00 – 16.00)	Book via Anni Hall
	Conversations in Palliative Care	MSC Seminar Room (14.00 – 15.00)	Just turn up
	Chemotherapy Update	MSC Meeting Room (14.30 – 15.30)	Just turn up
11 th	Head and Neck Study Day	PGC (09.30 – 16.00)	Book via Anni Hall
	Basic Life Support (non-clinical)	MSC Lecture Hall (09.30 – 12.30)	Book via Education Team
12 th	Clinical Case in Palliative Care	MSC Lecture Hall (12.30 – 14.00)	Sandwich Lunch provided
	Action Learning Set (Group 3)	MSC Meeting Room (14.15 – 15.15)	Book via Education Team
15 th	Zometa update	Chemo Suite Coffee Room (12.30 – 13.30)	Abbey Riaz, Novartis Pharmaceuticals UK Ltd
16 th	Non Malignant Palliative Care	MSC Lecture Hall (10.00 – 13.00)	Book via Anni Hall
17 th	Chemotherapy Update	Chemo Suite Coffee Room (14.30 – 15.30)	Just Turn Up
18 th	Oncology Nurse Development Course	Marie Curie Lecture Room (Caroline Gee) (14.00 – 15.15)	Just turn up
18 th / 19 th	Teaching Tips (2-day course)	MSC Lecture Hall (09.00 – 16.30)	Book via Anni Hall
23 rd	Conversations in Palliative Care	MSC Seminar Room (14.00 – 15.00)	Just turn up
	Spirituality Launch	Lecture Hall (10.00 – 12.00)	Book via Anni Hall
24 th	Action Learning Set (Group 1)	MSC Meeting Room (14.15 – 15.15)	Book via Education Team
25 th	Basic Life Support (Clinical)	MSC Lecture Hall (09.30 – 12.30)	Book via Education Team
30 th	Cancer Centre Visit	MSC Meeting Room (10.00 – 13.00)	Book via Anni Hall

For the first time in recent history, MVCC are taking part in International Infection Control Week **15th – 19th October 2007**. The theme is 'Infection Prevention – it's in your hands.' Look out for infection control activities lurking around every clean corner of the cancer centre... In particular:

- Visit the information booth in the canteen at lunchtime – have your hand washing skills tested and fill out the quiz for the chance to win a real prize!
- Attend the teaching sessions in the afternoons 2.30-3.15pm – see flyers nearer the time.
- Look out for the launch of the Infection Control monthly Newsletter including columns like 'Microbe of the month', 'how to keep the team clean' and the latest updates from the Trust...

For more information email esther.burden@nhs.net or bleep 775.

Esther Burden, Infection Control Lead, MVCC.

Dates for your Diary
Head and Neck Study Day – 11th October 2007 **Non Malignant Palliative Care – October 16th**
Advanced Symptom Control Day – November 30th
Book via Anni Hall Ext 4177

To add your education event to this diary, please contact Lorraine O'Connell on EXT 4669 with your name, designation, dept, ext no, date, teaching topic & speaker, target audience and preferred date & venue choice

Welcome to the 16th edition of the Cancer and Palliative Care Education Newsheet from the Mount Vernon Cancer Centre Education Group

Action Learning Sets Coming Soon !

Sarah Russell – Lead Lecturer Practitioner (Michael Sobell House)

Currently within the Cancer Centre and Michael Sobell House there are a variety of clinical supervision and action learning models ranging from individual and group clinical supervision to Action learning Set. Currently we are looking at how to provide more of these sessions to multiprofessional staff within the cancer centre and Action Learning Sets are one of the formats.

1. What is Action Learning?

It is a simply structured way of working in small groups on complex and difficult issues of practice. It is based on an experiential approach to learning - working with real problems and activities as raw material for analysis and reflection. It starts from the premise that: "There is no learning without action and no sober and deliberate action without learning" (Pedlar 1997)

A typical AL group will consist of around 5-6 people who commit to work together over a period of between 6-9 months. The set will meet regularly and each time set members will have an opportunity to 'present' a problem drawn from their own practice. The group will then help the 'presenter' work on that problem through supportive but challenging questioning - encouraging a deeper understanding of the issues involved, a reflective re-assessment and exploration of the 'problem'

One of the most important elements is the use of questioning. Once the problem is outlined by the presenter the rest of the group help work on this problem through questions to the presenter. AL encourages a particular type and use of questions - questions that develop dialogue and reflection, rather argument and recommendation. The questioning helps clarify and deepen understanding of the problem. It may help challenge assumptions and perspectives held by the presenter. It may provide a basis for 're-framing' the problem ways forward.

2. What sort of problems does AL work with?

AL work is most effective when faced with some of the most difficult problems or challenges we come up against in our work and organizations with some or all of the following aspects:

They are problems that are important to the presenter's organisation or their own practice, real and live, not made up exercises. The problems are complex in nature, dealing with systemic organisational or practice context issues. They are problems that are not amenable to 'expert' solutions, or have ready made right answers.

3. Some basic principles and values in AL work

For AL to work effectively, and for its basic elements to flower freely set members have to subscribe to, and work with, some basic principles and values. Three key values are:

1. Being honest with oneself and others is key to our own potential for learning in AL. If we are not self aware and honest about our actions, assumptions and mistakes, then our capacity for learning is limited, and our view of problems will always be distorted
2. Respecting others and their viewpoint, respecting others and their viewpoints is an essential pre-condition for building trust and openness in AL group work. Without these values operating the group cannot function as an effective learning group
3. Taking responsibility for our own actions, both in work in the AL group, and in the practice that we bring to the group is part of our being honest and self -aware, and crucial for understanding our own role in 'problems' and our possible ways forward.

Suggested Readings on Action Learning

Honey, P. *Establishing a Learning Regime, Organisations and People*. Vol 1, no 1. 1994
Pedler, M and Boutall, J. *Action Learning for Change, NHS Training Directorate*. 1992 Pedler, M. *Action Learning in Practice, Gower Publications*. 1997 Revans, R. *The ABC of Action Learning*. 1998 Senge, P. *The Fifth Discipline*. Century Business, London. 1992 Weinstein, K. *Action Learning*. Gower Publications. 1999

[Breaking News! Please see:](#)

<http://www.ncpc.org.uk/publications/index.html>

For useful information about -



**Implantable cardioverter
defibrillators in patients who
are reaching the end of life**