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CANCER SUPPORT

Macmillan Out of Hours Palliative Care E-learning Course

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The history

- Course launched in 2011 on Macmillan's Learn Zone (virtual learning environment).
- Developed following a successful education chapter in the OOH toolkit launched in 2009 which was targeted at educators of general palliative care in primary care.
- The toolkit was found to be very useful for everyday GPs.
- Feedback showed there was much demand for a palliative care course to be developed along the same lines, for learners as opposed to educators.

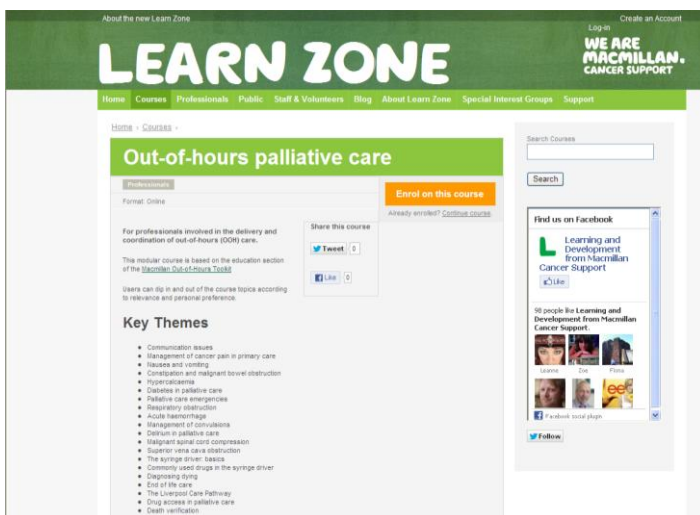
Next steps

- It was agreed to develop an online palliative care course for Out of Hours GPs which was also available to everyday GPs.
- Online learning has proved very successful and convenient for GPs who have a busy workload due to the flexible nature of learning.
- This had previously been shown by the success of online learning with BMJ and RCGP.

Curriculum

- Topics were developed by the Macmillan GP Advisors team and based on the content of the education section in the OOH toolkit.
- Several other authors were also sourced including consultants in palliative care and a Macmillan nurse consultant.
- The content was taken to a web designer (OnClick) who created an interactive environment to aid learning.

Topics range from communication with cancer patients, pain, symptom control measures to more pragmatic issues such as accessing drugs out of hours and the use of syringe drivers.



The e-learning programme can be accessed at <http://learnzone.org.uk>, where users can create a free Learn Zone account.

Since its launch in 2011, approximately ... professionals have accessed the course, including nurses and even hospital doctors.

Modules

- Each module is interactive and takes no more than 60 minutes to complete.
- Self-assessments are included at the end of each module to reinforce learning.
- Once a pass mark is achieved the learning can print off a certificate to keep as proof of learning (e.g. for an appraisal folder)

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