

FOUNDATION

Foundation Knowledge Areas for Cancer Care

- Knowledge for nurses in all areas of cancer
- Comprehensive Health Assessment**
 - Comprehensive assessment of oncology patient
- Supportive and Therapeutic Relationships
 - Patient center care (and family)
- Spiritual distress
- Emotional distress
- Person centered care – impact of cancer on patient and family supportive care framework
- Management of Cancer Symptoms and Treatment Side Effects**
 - Cancer basics (TNM and staging)
 - Disease site 101 series
 - Hematological malignancies
 - Treatment modalities including clinical trials
 - Principles of safe handling of hazardous medications and bodily fluids
 - Symptom Assessment and Management
 - Cancer related Thrombosis
 - Oncology emergencies
 - Supportive care including Complementary and Alternative Medicine
 - Vascular access
 - Sexual health
- Teaching and Coaching**
 - Prevention and screening – vaccination
- Compassion fatigue and self care
- Facilitating Continuity of Care/ Navigating the System**
 - Knowledge of resources
 - Survivorship
- Palliative Approach to Care Planning/ Advanced Care
- Decision Making and Advocacy**
 - Navigating Difficult Conversations
 - Goals of Care Discussions
 - Advanced care planning
 - Medical assistance in dying
- Professional Practice and Leadership**
 - CANO practice standards and competencies

SPECIALIZATION

Knowledge areas for specialization

Specialization: solid tumor

- Disease Site Specific – Pathology
- Staging (Dx tests), treatment (surgery, RT, Systemic Rx)
- Identify 1st line, 2nd line
- Clinical trials
- Symptom management – specific to disease site and treatment

Teaching/ Coaching:

- Providing self-management support to patients
- Oncological emergencies
- r/t disease site and treatment

Facilitating Cont. of Care:

- fertility
- survivorship
- transitions
- long term side effects
- community – pediatrics to adults etc
- active treatment to palliative care

Specialization: hematology

A&P of Blood, Lymphatics and Bone Marrow:

- Pathology of Blood Disorders
 - general hematology
- malignant
- diagnosis and classifications
 - proliferation
- bone marrow failure
- interpreting lab values
- transfusion medicine
- side effects of disease and treatment
- Hematology/ oncology emergencies
 - Bleeding and thrombosis
- Treatment modalities and intent
- Patient and family hematology education
- Living with hematological disorders
- Monitoring disease and treatment and transitions

Teaching and Coaching (applicable for all specialty practice, in solid tumour, hematology, and radiation therapy)

- Prevention (skin care, nutrition/hydration)
- Supportive and therapeutic relationships - Principles of adult learning
- Management of cancer symptoms and treatment side effects
- Promotion of self-care strategies (COSTaRS for telephone triage)
- Health literacy
- Smoking cessation
- Facilitating continuity of care/ navigating the system (psychosocial oncology services, home care, transitions in care from outpatient to inpatient)

Specialization: radiation therapy

Principles of Radiotherapy:

- Principles of Radiobiology
- Rationale for using radiotherapy in cancer treatment
- Factors that influence radiosensitivity and effect of radiation on the body
- External Beam Radiation – fractionation schedule
- Brachytherapy
 - Modes of delivery (interstitial, intracavitary, intraluminal, plesiocurie)
- Implants (temporary & permanent)
- High-Dose Rate - Low-Dose Rate
- Airway management
- Normothermia - Malignant Hyperthermia
- General Anesthesia - Conscious Sedation - Procedural Sedation
- Cardiac Arrhythmia
- Pain Management
- Post-procedure Recovery - Post-procedure Nausea/Vomiting
- Patient Education - Symptom Management - Vaginal Stenosis
- Radioactive Isotopes – Peptide Receptor Radionuclide Therapy - Non-sealed Radioactive Therapy - Intraoperative Radiotherapy
- Combination/Multimodality therapy (CHEMO/Biotherapy/XRT +/- SURGERY)
- Gamma knife – Cyberknife – stereotactic radiosurgery – Total Body Irradiation
- Radiation Safety
- Roles of interprofessional team members (Radiation Oncologist, Dosimetrist, Physicist, Radiation Therapist, Radiation Oncology Nurse, Anesthesiologist, Dietitian, Speech Language Pathologist)

Treatment Intent:

- Curative , Control, Palliative

Follow the Patient Pathway:

- Consult/decision to treat
- CT Simulation - IV Contrast (hypersensitivity reaction and acute kidney injury)
 - Stabilization devices
 - Tattoos
- Planning
 - Dosimetry (dose and target volumes)
- Treatment
 - Schedule and daily setup
 - Patient experience
- Side effects
 - Assessment - Grading scales RTOG/CTCAE
 - Site-specific and most common (fatigue, radiodermatitis)
 - Acute/early versus late/long term side effects
 - Symptom Management (evidence-based)
- Oncology emergencies
 - SVCO
 - Cord compression
 - Malignant Hypercalcemia
 - Deep Vein Thrombosis
 - Increased Intracranial Pressure

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND LEADERSHIP

Certification: After 2 years in oncology

- | CNA in Oncology – CON(C)
- | CNA in Palliative Care – CHPCN (C)

Note: 3,900 hours of oncology clinical experience is required for certification

Professional Development and Leadership: Beyond 2 years

Expert Mentor:

- Engaged in leadership development (team lead, organization development course)
- Unit based leadership rounds
- Professional knowledge transfer/ translation
- Presenting conference
- Strong patient advocate
- Organization committees
 - Practice council
- Experience Leading Practice Changes
 - Practice champion
 - EBP Initiative/ QI initiative
 - Organizational practice improvement
 - Participant
- Professional organization membership
 - CANO
 - RNAO
 - CAPO
- Ongoing professional education and development
 - Webinars
 - Courses
 - Fellowships
- CNA certification
- Understanding leadership roles – individual
 - Formal vs informal
- Aspiring for professional advancement
- Optimizing role enactment
- CANO leadership position statement
- Ethical considerations

Memberships

- RNAO or RPNAO
- CANO
- ONS