



EONS Position statement on education for cancer nurses

The public has a right to expect that cancer nurses demonstrate professional competence throughout their work.

The European Oncology Nursing Society (EONS) believes that assurance of competence is the shared responsibility of the employers, cancer nurses, professional organizations, credentialing and certification entities, regulatory agencies, and other key stakeholders.

- Regulatory authorities define minimal standards for regulation of practice to protect the public.
- The employer/organisation is responsible and accountable to provide an environment conducive to competent practice
- Cancer nurses are responsible for shaping and guiding any process that assures high quality education and training to meet the cancer patient's needs.

EONS believes that the following principles should be included in future requirements for improving education and training for cancer nurses:

1. Education activities needs to be transparent and communicable.
2. Education and educational frameworks must prepare cancer nurses for the future treatment and care, and provide a basis for interdisciplinary collaboration.
3. Education must be able to match the need for both general and specialist knowledge and skills.
4. The education activities should be based on a close relationship between theory and practice, which includes patients' participation in clinical trials, and training programs.
5. All cancer nurses need education and training in this field. There should be programs for basic, specialised and advanced practice nurses.
6. Curricula development for all cancer nursing education programs should be based on the EONS Cancer Nursing Curriculum.
7. Transcultural aspects need to be considered in any educational activity, aiming to promote cultural competence.
8. Programs must be flexible, systematic, accredited with definition in level, European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) and length.
9. Education and frameworks must have evaluation methods within the program, to ensure it meets the needs, and can change rapidly if needed.

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