

EONS Cancer Nursing Index 2020©

National profile: Sweden

Introduction

In the [RECaN project](#) EONS highlighted important differences in cancer nursing across Europe. The EONS Cancer Nursing Index 2020 (ECNI) was developed by the [EONS Advocacy Working Group](#) to illustrate the development and status of this profession in Europe. The index (with scores from 0-100) includes 22 items covering the following dimensions: Education and Career Development, Patient and Occupational Safety, Recognition, Working Conditions and Impact and Workforce statistics.

The Index is based on data from the following sources:

1. A range of data bases including the EONS Survey on Patient and Occupational Safety (anonymous survey, available in 9 languages, with at time for analysis had over 500 responses from cancer nurses in 38 countries)
2. Interviews with leading cancer nursing experts. Nurses from 38 of 42 invited countries participated
3. Work force statistics (from ec.europe.eu/Eurostat and OECD)

A scoring system was developed by EONS Advocacy Working Group to reflect the level of development for the different Index dimensions/items. For items with a variety of responses from the same country, the most frequently reported response was used. The purpose of the Index is primarily not to rank some countries as better than others but to illustrate cancer nursing profiles, differences and areas in need of development. The Index could be used in the development of cancer nursing in each country but also for general European progress.

Dimension/item	Maximum score	Mean score (min-max)	Sweden	Comment
Overall score	100	48 (16 -78)	76	
Education and career development (5 items presented below)	23	9 (0-18)	15	
Specialist education on university level	5		5	
EONS Framework recognized/supported by Ministry of Education/Health	5		0	
Master programs in cancer nursing	4		4	
Advanced cancer nursing roles established	4		2	'Partly implemented' To obtain the highest scores (4) for this item advanced cancer nursing roles need to be fully implemented and recognized at a national level.
Professors in cancer nursing	4		4	
Patient and occupational safety (8 items presented below)	36	18 (3-36)	30	
Safety guidelines (cytotoxic drugs) available	5		5	
Guidelines during pregnancy (cytotoxic drugs)	5		5	
Pregnant and /or breastfeeding women assigned other tasks that don't involve direct contact with cytotoxic/radioactive drugs	5		2	'Sometimes' To obtain the highest scores (5) for this item pregnant/breast feeding women should be forbidden to perform task with risks for exposure to cytotoxic/radioactive drugs at all workplaces.
Systematic testing for occupational exposure (surface swipes)	3		0	Surface swipes were reported from a small number of workplaces but never systematically. To receive highest possible scores (3) for this item testing should be systematically

				implemented at all workplaces.
Speak-up or whistle blower policy implemented for all members of staff	3		3	
Access to cytotoxic spillage kit and PPE	5		5	
Formal training before administering cytotoxic drugs	5		5	
Nurses not preparing cytotoxic drugs	5		5	
Working conditions and the Impact on cancer care (4 items presented below)	20	15 (3-19)	14	
Level of adherence to European Working Time Directive (EWTD)	5		5	
Risk of negative consequences if asking for alternative duties pregnancy/breast feeding	5		2	'Sometimes' To obtain the highest score (5) for this item all responding nurses from the country should have reported that there is no risk for negative consequences.
To what extent hospital beds are closed due to cancer nursing shortages	5		2	'It happens every month' To obtain the highest score (5) for this item, the respondent nurses should have reported that it never happens.
To what extent cancer treatment delayed due to cancer nursing	5		2	'It happens every month' To obtain the highest score (5) for this item, the respondent nurses should have reported that it never happens.
Recognition (4 items presented below)	18	8 (0-15)	14	
Does the country have a cancer nursing society?	5		5	
Does the country have a national cancer plan that includes nursing care?	3		3	
Does cancer centers in the country have Board positions dedicated for cancer nursing?	5		1	'Some centers have' To obtain the highest score (5) for this item, the respondent nurses should have reported that this is always the case.
To what extent is nurse-led cancer care implemented in the country?	5		5	
Work force statistics (1 item)	3	1 (0-3)	3	
Number of practicing nurses/1000 citizens (www.europe.eu/Eurostat and OECD)	3		3	

Strengths and weaknesses, Cancer nursing in Sweden

Overall, Sweden (total score 76) was one of the countries with the highest total scores in the ECNI 2020.

Congratulations! Only Ireland (total score 78) and the Netherlands (total score 77) scored higher. For the dimension Recognition, Sweden were among the top three countries. Sweden also had maximum score in Workforce statistics.

Sweden could improve their scores for the next revision of the ECNI in 2022 if advanced cancer nursing roles were implemented and recognized on a national level. Other areas related to safety that could be improved is if guidelines to avoid risk for exposure to cytotoxic drugs during pregnancy and breast feeding were available at all workplaces and if systematic testing for occupational exposure were systematically performed. Finally, if all cancer centers had a dedicated board nursing position and if Sweden's Minister of Health/Education would support EONS Cancer Nursing Education Framework, the scores would also be higher.

EONS Advocacy Working Group, June 2020