

# Cancer Care Ontario

## Provincial Oncology Nursing Newsletter

Fall 2011 Edition

October 20, 2011

### A note from Esther...

Opportunities abound to advance your oncology nursing practice knowledge. From developing guidelines through the Capacity Enhancement Program to de Souza's offerings through their designation and e-mentorship, there is no shortage of opportunities

to connect with other nurses and learn. Read how CCO and North Simcoe Muskoka have been trailblazers in using new technology to push out information on symptom management (see below and page 3). The oncology nurse role description is also available thanks to a dedicated group of nurses (see page 2).

We are also exploring using Microsoft Sharepoint technology to launch a collaboration site—stay tuned! We have an exciting line-up of Oncology Nursing rounds and look to you to suggest potential topics and speakers for 2012. Please keep in touch.



Sincerely,  
Esther Green  
Provincial Head of Oncology Nursing and Psychosocial Oncology  
Cancer Care Ontario

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## CCO mobile app brings best evidence on managing a cancer patient's symptoms to the point of care

Cancer Care Ontario (CCO) recognized that health care professionals, need and want information in a way that is relevant, timely, easy-to-access and maybe most importantly, mobile. CCO delved into the world of app development and catapulted the organization into the Web 2.0 mix with the introduction of the Symptom Management Guides App for iPhone, iPad, iPod touch and Windows Phone 7. CCO plans to expand this list of devices over the coming year - Android devices will likely be next.

Since its release in February 2011, the app has been downloaded over 1,500 times and it was named one of nine 'Best Medical apps' by the Medical Post in June 2011.

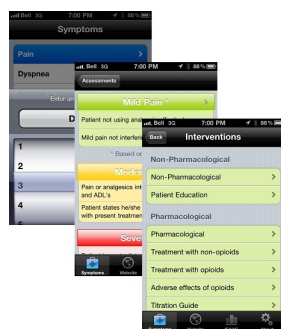
The app was developed as part of the Ontario Cancer Symptom Management Collaborative (OCSMC), a province-wide initiative aimed at improving the quality and consistency of the patient's physical and emotional symptom management across the cancer journey. The free app allows clinicians to input their patient's reported ESAS score into a mobile device and immediately get guidance on further assessment and the pharmacological and non-pharmacological symptom management information required to support clinical decision-making, leading to the best possible symptom control for patients.

The app is a condensed version of the full symptom management guides

for pain, dyspnea, depression, anxiety, nausea/vomiting and delirium available on CCO's website, <http://www.cancercare.on.ca/toolbox/symptools/>. Later this year the app will be updated to include guides for fatigue, appetite, mouth care and bowel care.

~Susan King  
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**Download the CCO Symptom Management Guide app on [iTunes](#) or for [Windows Phone 7](#).**



## An Oncology RN Role Description for you, your organization, and your profession

At the February 2010 ONPC meeting, the membership highlighted the need for a role description for oncology nurses that could be used across the province of Ontario. The purpose of this document was to assist oncology nurses and leaders to understand the competencies required to allow nurses to make a valuable contribution to the interprofessional team by supporting the provision of care to cancer patients along the disease pathway continuum. It also clarifies the expectations required to be successful as a Specialized Oncology Nurse within an accountability framework.

The small but focused working group was challenged to create a role description that was relevant to all oncology nurses in various roles throughout the spectrum of cancer care. Aside from traditional clinics, systemic therapy and inpatient oncology nurse roles, we have seen roles such as APN's and clinical trials more clearly articulated as emerging roles such as the Nurse Navigator role add dimension to oncology

nursing. The essence of oncology nursing remains grounded in the CANO Practice Standards and Competencies for the Specialized Oncology Nurse and they remain the foundation for our practice so it was logical to build the role description utilizing our national standards. The role description headings mirror that of the Practice Standards and each section outlines specific competencies related to that heading.

So how can you utilize the role description into your practice and your organization? It can be used as a guide for your practice within your organizational setting; skills, knowledge and judgements that you should aspire to within your practice. The role description can be used as is, if it suits your organization's needs, but it can also be adapted to accommodate specific role requirements, skill sets and/or credentialing within your organization. By being able to incorporate the Oncology RN Role Description into your practice setting, you are contributing to the quality care that we provide

for our profession of Oncology Nursing.

The working group welcomes your comments, questions and feedback on how you could use the role description in your practice setting by contacting Marcie Flynn-Post at [Marcie.Flynn-Post@uhn.ca](mailto:Marcie.Flynn-Post@uhn.ca)

Submitted on behalf of the Oncology RN Role Description Working Group:

Susan Daley, R.N., BScN, Trillium Health Centre

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Terry MacKenzie, R.N., CON(c), Sudbury Regional Cancer Program

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To view the full document, please click on the attached link:

<http://www.cancercare.on.ca/common/pages/UserFile.aspx?fileId=100489>

## Achieve Oncology Nursing Excellence with a de Souza Designation

High quality, compassionate and evidenced based care comes from achieving a de Souza Designation. Ontario nurses can obtain a de Souza Designation at no cost in order to enhance their oncology knowledge and skills through continuing education, mentorship programs and clinical placements. Nurses working in

any area of practice can achieve a de Souza Designation that suits their educational background and experience. The Designation is an official recognition of specialized oncology preparation of nurses from the generalist to the specialist.

There are four types of de Souza Designations: *de Souza Nurse Associate* (RNs or RPNs who care for cancer patients within an assigned caseload), *de Souza Nurse* (RNs whose primary focus is cancer care with specialty knowledge), *de Souza APN* (specialized oncology RNs with Master's preparation) and *de Souza Nurse Scholar* (specialized

oncology RNs with/pursuing PhD).

Achieving a de Souza Designation is both challenging and rewarding. Nurses complete a number of courses within the four course categories based on CANO's Practice Standards. For the de Souza Nurse and de Souza APN Designations, learners must also complete a clinical fellowship of their choice. The clinical placement provides an opportunity to consolidate knowledge and skill in an identified area of practice. The de Souza Institute will provide some assistance in travel and accommodation expenses for the clinical fellowship.

(continued on back page)

For more information about achieving a de Souza Designation please visit [www.desouzanurse.ca](http://www.desouzanurse.ca)

## Capacity Enhancement Program—Upcoming Webinars

**T**he Capacity Enhancement Program (CEP) is a strategic initiative of the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer Corporation (CPACC)'s Cancer Guidelines Advisory Group. One of the CEP's mandates is to improve the quality of cancer control for Canadians by providing training and skill development opportunities to Canadian stakeholders with an interest in cancer guidelines. As part of this mandate, the CEP hosts webinars on various topics related to evidence and guideline development.

In Fall 2011, the CEP plans to host two webinars aimed at guideline methodologists, guideline panel members, guideline program managers, and health care professionals or trainees. The first webinar will provide an interactive overview of the CEP's online

Cancer Guidelines Resource Centre, including tools and resources for each step in the guideline development process, and a searchable database of English language cancer guidelines published since 2003 (SAGE). The second webinar will identify common weaknesses in Canadian cancer guidelines and suggest ways to improve their quality.

Planned webinar topics for Spring 2012 include: advanced clinical trial designs, meta-analysis, developing guideline recommendations, guideline adaptation, and guideline implementation/knowledge transfer.

For more information about future training opportunities and registration, please visit: <http://cancerguidelines.ca/Guidelines/>

Past webinars have included: choosing a topic and scope; developing a guideline question; developing evidence selection criteria; literature searching and results management; and a series of webinars on the critical appraisal of practice guidelines, systematic reviews, clinical trials and observational studies. The WebEx recordings, videos and copies of the presentations from those webinars are available at: <http://cancerguidelines.ca/Guidelines/events/webinararchives.php>.

CEP Training Coordinators,

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## Summer Education Series - Symptom Management Guidelines

**A**n initiative of Cancer Care Ontario, the Ontario Cancer Symptom Management Collaborative (OCSMC) is a joint project between the Palliative Care, Psychosocial Oncology and Oncology Nursing Programs. The goal of the OCSMC is to promote a model of care enabling earlier identification, communication and documentation of symptoms; optimal symptom management; and coordinated palliative care.

The goal of the OCSMC is to use common assessment and care management tools, including the Edmonton Symptom Assessment System (ESAS) screening tool, which enables patients to routinely report on cancer-related symptoms they are experiencing. Symptom Management Guides-to-Practice were developed to assist health care professionals in the assessment and appropriate management of a patient's reported symptoms.

Additionally, quick reference Pocket Guides and Algorithms were created to complement the Guides-to-Practice.

To date, complete cancer-related symptom guides include: Pain, Dyspnea, Nausea and Vomiting, and Delirium. Algorithms are complete, with full technical reports pending publication for both Anxiety and Depression.

In an effort to disseminate these comprehensive assessment and intervention tools, the Simcoe Muskoka Regional Cancer Program ran a successful Summer Education Series on the Symptom Management Guidelines. The sessions were available as live videoconferences and webcasts through the Ontario Telemedicine Network. Webcasts have been archived and can be viewed for up to 1 year after presentation date. To access the videoconfer-

ence, please contact your local Telemedicine Coordinator.

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Lesley Moody, MBA, Coordinator, PSO and Clinical Trials  
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### [ To access the webcasts... ]

please visit <http://webcast.otn.ca>

**Anxiety and Depression:** expires June 30, 2012

**Nausea and Vomiting:** expires July 14, 2012

**Pain:** expires July 28, 2012

**Dyspnea:** expires August 11, 2012

**Delirium:** expires August 25, 2012

## Leadership for Mentorship workshop

On June 22<sup>nd</sup> the Oncology Nursing e-Mentorship Program hosted their first Leadership for Mentorship workshop. The workshop was held in one of downtown Toronto's beautiful heritage buildings. Administrators, Educators, and APNs came from the North West right down to the Hamilton Niagara Hal-dimand Brant LHIN regions to participate. One participant travelled from British Columbia to attend!

Following an introduction by Dr. Denise Bryant-Lukosius, co-chair of the Program, Shelley Aubry delivered a keynote address that

challenged participants to evaluate the type of leader they are or would like to be. At times the room was filled with laughter and at other times, the room was silent while participants reflected on what was said. Dr. Bryant-Lukosius, Tracey Keighley-Clarke, and Esther Green addressed the value of mentorship and career development from a research, program director, and provincial leader perspective highlighting the impact that mentorship can have on organizations with minimal financial investment.

After lunch, Marilyn Reddick delivered a dynamic address focusing on

how leaders within organizations can engage and support their staff to be their best. Marilyn challenged participants to think beyond budgets and perceived constraints and see the value in investing in staff. Michelle Cooper then facilitated a World Café activity that sought to identify strategies and barriers to implementing a mentorship program into participants' organizations.

~Petroiya Paterson, RN, MN,  
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Visit the [website](#) to view the ideas that came out of the World Café discussion

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## Continued from page 2, De Souza...

Recently, the de Souza Institute released its third course in the Standardized Chemotherapy and Biotherapy Program, a competency maintenance course. Provincial and national standards indicate that all nurses who provide cancer chemotherapy care/administration should engage in an annual competency maintenance program. de Souza has developed this course to meet these requirements. The course reviews essential concepts for chemotherapy and biotherapy administration and care at a level more advanced than the initial standardized course. A comprehensive systemic therapy self assessment tool is provided for learners, as well as an exam.

~ Sandra Li- James, Rebecca Skinner, Laura Rashleigh  
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Posters are available for posting around your organization. Recordings of past presentations may also be available, please contact Naomi to request recordings.

**The Provincial Oncology Nursing Rounds are free online and interactive learning sessions bringing together nurses from clinical and research settings around the Province of Ontario .**

## Upcoming Provincial Oncology Nursing Rounds

**NOVEMBER 21, 2011** Oncology nurse perceptions of clinical priorities and strategies for promoting evidence-based practice—Dr. Denise Bryant-Lukosius

**JANUARY 16, 2012** Community palliative model - Julia Johnston & Cindy Shobbrook

If you have a topic or speaker to suggest for rounds, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact [naomi.greenberg@cancercare.on.ca](mailto:naomi.greenberg@cancercare.on.ca) to submit your ideas.