



Chemotherapy Competency Maintenance Course

COURSE SYLLABUS

2024

Course Authors:

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Course Format: eLearning

Contact Information: Komal Patel Saini - komal.patel@desouzainstitute.com

Technical Support: support@desouzainstitute.com

Registration: Required

Eligibility: Nurses who have completed the Provincial Standardized Chemotherapy and Biotherapy (PSCB) Course.

Prerequisite: *Provincial Standardized Chemotherapy and Biotherapy (PSCB)* is required before completing this course.

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This self-directed, eLearning course has been designed for nurses who have passed de Souza Institute's Provincial Standardized Chemotherapy and Biotherapy Course to meet competency maintenance requirements recommended by CANO/ACIO. This maintenance course covers the following topics: assessment, order verification process, administration and documentation, venous access, safe handling, adverse events, toxicities and symptom management, cancer and aging, and oral chemotherapy. Updates on new evidence and new therapies will be highlighted.

Reflective practice is integrated into the course, as an essential aspect of an ongoing competency maintenance program. It contains the following five steps: assessment, peer feedback, development of a learning plan, implementation of a learning plan and an evaluation of the learning experience. Several reflective practice tools have been developed to assist in this and are accessible through this course. The tools have been designed to be consistent with the College of Nurses of Ontario's annual Quality Assurance Program and CANO/ACIO standards; and may be integrated within your annual portfolio for your college, and within your organization's annual competency maintenance processes.

Prerequisites: To enroll in the course, participants must be nurses who have successfully completed the PSCB course, either with a local facilitator or de Souza faculty.

Domain of Practice	Treatment and Delivery of Evidence Based Care
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Learning Hours	5 hours
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de Souza Credit	0 credit
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B. COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Describe the assessment interview including data collection and communication principles and techniques
- Compare and contrast several assessment tools used in the care of the patient with cancer.
- Summarize and apply the essential steps for chemotherapy and biotherapy administration in case scenarios, including the essential components of documentation.
- Explain the advantages and challenges of oral chemotherapy.

- Demonstrate evidenced based principles for venous access device care and maintenance for patients receiving chemotherapy and biotherapy.
- Demonstrate evidenced based principles for safe handling of hazardous drugs, including demonstrating appropriate application of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and management of a hazardous drug spill.
- Apply evidence based principles for managing adverse events (infusion reactions and flare reactions).
- Describe the changes that occur with aging and their impact on chemotherapy administration and care.
- Summarize the nursing assessment, management and support for common toxicities and symptoms experienced by patients receiving chemotherapy and/or biotherapy.

C. MODE OF LEARNING: eLearning

The eLearning environment fosters a self-directed approach. You can progress through the modules and exercises at a convenient time, at home or work. The course timetable, in **Section G** of the course syllabus, outlines our suggested weekly expectations for participants.

- **eLearning Modules:** Sections and modules were developed by the de Souza education team to reflect the latest knowledge in cancer chemotherapy nursing care. The content is up-to-date and includes interactive application exercises and references to the latest clinical guidelines.
- **Supplemental Readings:** These readings are intended to enhance the eLearning content surrounding key topic areas and are *not* required. They can be utilized to address knowledge gaps identified in your self-reflection activities.
- **Collaborative Forum:** This is a form of learning that really depends on the active participation of the group and is intended to engage all participants enrolled in the course. Online discussions regarding module content, supplemental readings or activities will enhance knowledge acquisition, understanding, and sharing. It is encouraged that you share experiences, ideas or resources from clinical practice with others in the course. To avoid excessively long postings, try to keep your posting under 400 words in length.
- **Study Guide:** A writable study guide is made available as a resource that you can print and/or fill in as you progress through the interactive course modules.

D. MODES OF EVALUATION

As part of the evaluation process, you are required to complete the following:

- **A Baseline Participant Survey:** This survey obtains your demographics and assesses your knowledge, attitude, and confidence before you begin the eLearning modules for the course.
- **eLearning Modules:** You must complete **all sections/modules** by the course end date. Supplemental readings are not required.
- **Reflective Practice Tools:** A self-assessment tool is provided and is based on CANO/ACIO Standards, Benner’s model from Novice to Expert (including strengths and areas to improve) and the CNO Quality Assurance Program. This tool can be printed from the eLearning course to keep in your portfolio. It can be accessed under the section titled “Reflective Practice”. Additionally, it is recommended that you create a learning plan and track your ongoing educations to support your competency maintenance.
- **Exam:** There are 20 multiple choice questions in the exam. You will be given 50 minutes to complete the exam. To successfully pass the exam, you must obtain a minimum of 16 out of 20 (>80%). If you do not achieve a passing grade, you should review your exam results and identify knowledge gaps. The course facilitator can provide you with feedback on your exam attempt and assist with knowledge gaps. A one-week time period is recommended between re-writing the exam, to ensure time for review of knowledge gaps. **There are maximum 2 attempts for the exam.**
- **Post Evaluation Survey:** Once you have completed the above requirements, you will be required to complete a post course evaluation survey, which can be accessed at the end of the eLearning course.

When you have met the all of the above requirements, you will receive **5 learning hours** and a downloadable certificate of completion via your “My Account”. The certificate of completion will be available within 2 weeks of the closing of the course and you will receive an email with instructions on how to download.

Please note: this course is considered a non-credit course, therefore completion does not earn you credits towards de Souza designation.

The de Souza Institute welcomes comments and feedback that you have at any time. Please send feedback to the course facilitator.

E. COMPETENCIES

A number of competencies will be evident within each module that encompasses the Canadian Association of Nurses in Oncology’s competencies.

Canadian Association of Nurses in Oncology – Competencies associated with cancer chemotherapy nursing practice:

- Comprehensive health assessment
- Supportive and therapeutic relationships
- Management of cancer symptoms and treatment side effects
- Teaching and coaching
- Facilitating continuity of care/navigating the system
- Decision-making and advocacy
- Professional practice and leadership

To review the competencies, please visit the CANO/ACIO [website](#).

F. TIME REQUIREMENT & EXPECTATIONS FOR PARTICIPANTS

To be successful in completing this course, you are encouraged to set aside 1 to 2 hours each week to complete the course sections. Learning is primarily self-directed. The total learning hours for this course is 5 hours.

Sections and modules are meant to be completed sequentially but you can choose to go ahead and complete learning activities at your own pace.

Your course activity completion will be reflected in your **grade book**. Evidence of engagement through active participation will result in a positive learning experience. You will be expected to complete all sections/modules through the eLearning course.

G. SUGGESTED COURSE TIMELINE

You **do not** have to complete the weekly course activities exactly as outlined below. However, you must complete all course requirements **by the course end date**.

	Suggested Weekly eLearning Activities
Week 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Learner Agreement ✓ Baseline Participant Survey ✓ Reflective Practice
Week 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Download, Save and/or Print the writable Study Guide ✓ Section 1 – Administration Assessment ✓ Section 2 – Order Verification Process
Week 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Section 3 – Administration ✓ Section 4 – CVAD and PIV Care and Maintenance
Week 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Section 5 – Documentation ✓ Section 6 – Safe Handling of Hazardous Drugs
Week 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Section 7 – Immunotherapy ✓ Section 8 – Immediate Complications
Week 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Section 8b- Tumour Lysis Syndrome ✓ Section 9 – Safety Corner and Updates
<p>Final Exam – Complete within Weeks 7 to 8 Maximum 2 attempts; must obtain 16/20 (>80%) to pass We recommend that you attempt the final exam by the end of week 7</p>	
Week 7 to 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Post Evaluation Survey ✓ Final Exam

H. FACILITATOR AVAILABILITY

This course is self-directed. The course facilitator will answer your questions related to course content.

You can expect the facilitator to respond to your questions within 24-48 hours during the week and 48-72 hours on the weekend.

Facilitator contact- refer to page 1

Technical support is available by contacting support@desouzainstitute.com

I. FACILITATOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Komal Patel Saini, RN(EC), MN, CON(C), CHPCN(C), CGNC(C)

Komal began her nursing career at William Osler Health System in Brampton, Ontario in 2006 on an in-patient oncology unit where she has had the opportunity to provide direct patient care, precept nursing students, mentor nurses, and educate healthcare professionals throughout the organization. Komal values lifelong learning and has demonstrated this in many professional activities she has engaged in including the chairing of the Oncology Interprofessional Unit Base Council and the William Osler Oncology Journal Club. In 2011, Komal completed an RNAO clinical fellowship that focused on Oncology and Palliative Pain and Symptom Management. Komal holds a BScN (Honours) from the University of Windsor (2006) and holds a Masters in Nursing with a teaching focus from Athabasca University (2014). She obtained her Oncology CNA certification in 2010, Hospice Palliative Care CNA certification in 2012 and Gerontology CNA certification in 2019. Komal achieved her de Souza APN designation in 2013 and completed the Post Master's NP program with a focus in primary health care from Athabasca University in 2018.

J. SOCIAL FORUM

This forum is provided for you to post news, items of general interest, share information about yourselves and to raise topics of interest beyond the specific questions being discussed in the module-specific forums. All messages of a social nature can be posted in this forum. This forum is open to all participants, including the facilitator.

K. VIRTUAL LIBRARY

de Souza Institute has a virtual library that can be accessed by those registered in this course or any other de Souza Institute continuing education program. This resource enables you to access over 1500 e-Journals, 200 e-books and 8 on-line databases such as CINAHL or Ovid-Medline. You can use the virtual library to access the additional reading materials for your course. The virtual library can be accessed 24 hours a day using your login and password.

The direct link is: <https://library.desouzainstitute.com/login>.

L. TECHNICAL SUPPORT

eLearning Centre Orientation

The eLearning Centre Orientation is designed to introduce you to online learning and to help you understand how to navigate through the de Souza Institute eLearning centre and courses. It is strongly recommended that you complete this orientation so that you will be able to successfully navigate de Souza's eLearning environment.

de Souza Institute Support

If you have questions about the content of a course, please email your course facilitator.

If you need assistance accessing or navigating the eLearning Centre, please refer to the eLearning Orientation course. If you have questions or have any technical difficulties, please contact support@desouzainstitute.com.

M. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Click the links below to read de Souza Institute's respective policies.

[Academic Honesty and Copyright Policy](#)

[Cancellations, Incomplete and No Show Policy](#)

[Request for Accommodation Policy](#)

Course content and resources provided in this course are based on best practice guidelines from provincial and national bodies. Local protocols and policies vary among healthcare organizations; please consult educators within your organization if you have specific questions related to local protocols and policies.