



Oncology Study Group

COURSE SYLLABUS

2019

Course Facilitator: Komal Patel

Course Offering: de Souza Institute

Course Format: eLearning and Workshop

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Registration: Required

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The de Souza Oncology Study Group is a preparatory program to assist independent adult learners preparing to write the CNA Oncology Certification Exam. By choosing to complete your oncology specialty certification, you are building on your foundational nursing knowledge from registration and on your clinical experience within oncology (CNA, 2013). Within this course you will examine, critically consider and apply the theories and concepts outlined in the CNA Oncology exam blueprint. The exam blueprint outlines the core oncology competencies of an oncology nurse with at least two years of experience in the specialty.

The course is self-directed and self-paced. It has been divided up into units based on the CNA oncology certification exam competencies. The CNA (2013) competency categories are as follows:

1. Prevention, Early Detection and Screening
2. Diagnosis and Staging of Cancer
3. Knowledge of Cancer Diseases
4. Treatment Modalities
5. Symptom and Treatment Management
6. Supportive Care
7. Continuity of Care
8. Ethics, Legal Obligations and Research

Unit content and activities will be weighted according to the CNA exam competency weighting – with a greater focus on competency areas three, four, and five. Participants are encouraged to self-pace their study time, based on their experience, knowledge gaps, and based on exam weighting of the content area.

B. COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

- Identify prevention, early detection and screening strategies, with consideration given to epidemiological data, risk factors for cancer and assessments related to risk factors, and genetic testing
- Describe and differentiate between the clinical presentation, risk factors, prognostic factors, diagnosis and staging, standards of treatment, and patient care for common and less common cancer diseases in adults
- Describe and differentiate between the clinical presentation, risk factors, prognostic factors, and standards of treatment for common cancer diseases in children
- Identifying the common side effects, interventions, patient education and components of oncology nursing care for common cancer treatment modalities
- Describe the clinical presentation, risk factors and interventions for common oncology emergencies
- Describe the etiology of common disease and treatment related side effects, and outline assessment, preventative care, and symptom management strategies

- Identify, articulate and strategize the best approach for nursing care for the supportive care domains
- Articulate the ethical and legal obligations in the care of the patient impacted by cancer
- Describe the role of research in oncology practice, including the ethical principles guiding research, role of clinical trials and phases, and the role of the oncology nurse in clinical trials and research.

C. MODE OF LEARNING

The main mechanisms to facilitate learning in this course will entail eLearning and a workshop. The workshop is modifiable to be run locally by an expert volunteer who has their oncology certification (CON(C)).

eLearning

eLearning, offered through the de Souza eLearning center, will cover the following activities: the application of knowledge, self-directed reading assignments, and discussion forum participation. The eLearning environment fosters a self-directed approach for participants to progress through the units at a convenient time, either at home or work. The course timetable in Section H of the course syllabus outlines weekly expectations for participants.

- Learning and application: Units have been developed by de Souza education team to reflect the knowledge required to be successful on the CNA certification exam. The learning format is self-directed. Each unit will take approximately 20 - 40 minutes to complete, in addition to pre-reading from the assigned text and virtual library. Each unit consists of interactive activities, resources, a multiple choice quiz and additional supplemental readings.
- Readings are provided to address each of the CNA oncology competencies and should be utilized with the eLearning unit activities
 - Recommended text: Langhorne, M. E., Fulton, J. S., & Otto, S. E. (2007). *Oncology nursing* (5th ed.). St. Louis, MO: Mosby.
 - Required text: Yarbro, C. H., Wujcik, D., & Gobel, B.H. (2011). *Cancer nursing principles and practice* (7th ed.). Boston, MA: Jones and Bartlett Publishers.
- Discussion forum via the eLearning platform is intended to engage all participants enrolled in the course. This is a form of learning that really depends on the active participation of the group. Online discussions regarding module content, readings or activities will enhance knowledge acquisition, understanding, and sharing. Note: Participating in the discussion forum is optional.
- Technical support will be provided throughout the course.

Workshop:

The symposium will be held to facilitate targeted review of the CNA competencies for the exam. This ½ day workshop will be available via webcasting, or locally, led by a volunteer expert. The competencies selected for review in the workshop will be based on the study group participants' knowledge gaps identified in the pre-study group knowledge testing, and based on participants' initial areas of lower confidence in practice. In addition, participants will have the opportunity to write a mock exam during the week of the symposium via eLearning. The mock exam will allow participants to test their knowledge and identify core priorities for future study based on mock exam feedback.

You must register to attend this event separately. Workshop registration details and link will be posted in the course News and Announcement Section of the course by mid-February 2018.

D. MODES OF EVALUATION

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

- A baseline evaluation: this survey assesses your knowledge, attitude, and confidence with the content before you begin the eLearning modules for the course.
- eLearning units, required readings, activities and quizzes. The grades for each activity and quizzes will not influence whether a participant will receive a study group completion certificate in your My Account. However, all activities and quizzes must have been attempted at least once to receive the certificate of completion. Grades in quizzes can be used to guide your studying.
- Midterm evaluation: this survey helps to guide course enhancements. It must be completed by participants if they wish to attend the symposium.
- Post evaluation: At the end of the course, you will be required to complete a post course evaluation. This will be facilitated electronically through eLearning.

When you have met the all the above requirements, you will receive a downloadable certificate of completion via your My Account. Please note: the certificate of completion will be available four weeks after the closing of the online course.

E. COMPETENCIES

The course competencies are based on the CNA Oncology Certification Exam Competencies. The competencies are meant to be met at the level of a competent oncology nurse with at least two years of experience. Some of the competencies lend themselves to one or more of the categories.

Canadian Nurses Association Competencies

- Prevention, Early Detection and Screening
- Diagnosis and Staging of Cancer
- Knowledge of Cancer Diseases
- Treatment Modalities
- Symptom and Treatment Management
- Supportive Care
- Continuity of Care
- Ethical, Legal Obligations and Research

Standards & guidelines link:

https://www.nurseone.ca/~media/nurseone/files/en/cert_oncology_2013_e.pdf

See Appendix A for Summary Chart of the CNA Oncology Nursing Certification Exam Development Guidelines.

F. TIME REQUIREMENT AND EXPECTATIONS FOR PARTICIPANTS

To be successful in completing this course, you are encouraged to set aside 3 to 4 hours each week to complete each section as learning is primarily self-directed. The total learning hours for this course is 27 hours.

Units do not need to be completed sequentially; participants can choose to go ahead and complete unit learning activities.

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 system. It is strongly recommended for participants not to plan a vacation during the course offering period.

Required Readings and Activities

Readings are included with for each unit. Additional activities, quizzes and discussions are included to augment the readings. The recommended text is based on the CNA exam blueprint text recommendations. Virtual Library readings are recommended in areas where the text book does not fully cover the exam content.

Langhorne, M. E., Fulton, J. S., & Otto, S. E. (2007). *Oncology nursing* (5th ed.). St. Louis, MO: Mosby.

The Oncology Nursing text book is purchasable at many university book stores and also online.

Yarbro, C. H., Wujcik, D., & Gobel, B.H. (2011). *Cancer nursing principles and practice* (7th ed.). Boston, MA: Jones and Bartlett Publishers. *If you have an older or the latest version (8th) you may use that text.*

The Cancer Nursing text book is available via de Souza Institute's Virtual Library. If you would like a hard copy, it can also be purchased at many university book stores as well.

Required Activities

Each unit will have additional interactive activities to support the participants' application of core concepts in the module.

Additional Supplemental Readings – Virtual library

Each unit will have additional supplemental readings from the virtual library that you may choose to include in your learning. These reading have been selected by the facilitator to enrich your learning experience and may be incorporated on a self-directed basis.

G. FACILITATOR AVAILABILITY

As the facilitator for this course, I will be responsible to answer questions related to course content, to monitor the registration process, to facilitate the eLearning modules, and be available to you for questions throughout the course. You can expect me to respond to your queries within 24-hour time period during the week and 48 hours on the weekend. Technical support is available by contacting support@desouzainstitute.com.

H. COURSE TIMELINE

The baseline participant survey must be completed first. Next, the Test Your Oncology Knowledge Across the Continuum Quiz must be completed. Course units, activities, and quizzes can be completed in any order that you prefer. We have a recommended timeline listed below.

The course schedule is divided over 18 weeks.

Unit	Topic	Date to complete
Introduction	eLearning Center Orientation	End of 1 st week of the course
	Baseline Participant Survey	End of 1 st week of the course
Getting Started	Test Your Oncology Knowledge Quiz	End of 1 st week of the course
1	Introduction to Cancer	End of 1 st week of the course
2	Oncology Research and Ethical and Legal Obligations	End of 1 st week of the course
3	Systemic Therapy	End of 2 nd week of the course
4	Radiation Therapy	End of 2 nd week of the course
5	Surgery	End of 3 rd week of the course
6	Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant	End of 3 rd week of the course
7	Complementary Health Approaches and Integrative Health	End of 4 th week of the course
8	Pediatric Oncology	End of 4 th week of the course
9	Oncology Emergencies	End of 5 th week of the course
10	Lung Cancer	End of 6 th week of the course
11	Head and Neck Cancer	End of 6 th week of the course
12	Leukemia	End of 7 th week of the course
13	Myeloma	End of 7 th week of the course
14	Lymphoma	End of 8 th week of the course
15	Malignant Melanoma	End of 8 th week of the course
16	Colorectal Cancer	End of 9 th week of the course
17	Gastrointestinal Cancer	End of 10 th week of the course
18	Prostate Cancer	End of 10 th week of the course
19	Genitourinary Cancer	End of 11 th week of the course
20	Brain and Central Nervous System Cancers	End of 11 th week

21	Breast Cancer	End of 12 th week of the course
22	Gynecological Cancer	End of 12 th week of the course
23	Side Effects and Symptom Management	End of 13 th week of the course
24	Palliative Care and End of Life	End of 14 th week of the course
25	Rehabilitation and Survivorship	End of 14 th week of the course
26	Supportive Care and Continuity	End of 14 th week of the course
27	Review – 2 weeks	End of 16 th week
Workshop	Date to be decided (October TBA 2018)	
Workshop Day Evaluation	Date to be announced	
Final Evaluation	To be completed by Nov 15, 2018.	

In order to receive a certificate of completion all course requirements must be met and successfully completed by **May 15, 2019.**

I. FACILITATOR’S BIOGRAPHY

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 and holds a Masters in Nursing with a teaching focus from Athabasca University. She obtained her Oncology CNA certification in 2010, Hospice Palliative Care CNA exam in 2012 and CVAA(C) certification in 2014. Komal is currently enrolled in a Post Master’s NP program with a focus in primary health care.

Additional Information Regarding Learning At de Souza Institute

A. GUIDELINES FOR ONLINE DISCUSSION

Discussion related to course content will take place in the collaborative discussion forums. The collaborative discussion forums provide you with the opportunity to share ideas and clarify your understanding of course content and readings. Your posting should fully articulate your thoughts on a given topic, it should also be concise. To avoid excessively long postings, try to keep your posting under 400 words in length. Try to avoid repetitive messages like "I agree with your posting" unless you are following them with additional information, new ideas or issues. Don't be afraid to disagree with your facilitator or peers as long as you phrase your thoughts respectfully. The idea is to stimulate a thoughtful dialogue, so we all need to take responsibility to both contribute to the discussion and keep it lively and on-going. Note: participating in the discussion forum is optional.

B. SOCIAL FORUM

This social forum is provided for you, the participants, 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 the social forum. This forum is open to all participants, including the facilitator.

C. VIRTUAL LIBRARY

The de Souza Institute has a virtual library that can be accessed to 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 CINHALL or Ovid-Medline. You can use the virtual library to access the required reading materials for your course. The virtual library can be accessed 24 hours a day at any location that has internet access using a login and password.

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

D. TECHNICAL SUPPORT

eLearning Centre Orientation

If this is the first time you are taking a course offered by the de Souza Institute, please complete the eLearning Centre Orientation course (free of charge). This course is designed to introduce you to online learning and 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 you will be able to successfully navigate de Souza's eLearning environment.

de Souza 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 general technical difficulties please contact support@desouzainstitute.com.

E. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Click the links below to read de Souza Institute's Academic Honesty and Copyright; and cancellation, incomplete and no show policies.

[Academic Honesty and Copyright Policy](#)

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

Course content and resources provided in this course are based on best practice guidelines from provincial and national bodies. Please consult your educator if you have specific questions related to local protocols and policies as they vary among healthcare organizations.

Appendix A

ONCOLOGY NURSING CERTIFICATION

Summary Chart

Oncology Nursing Exam Development Guidelines

STRUCTURAL VARIABLES			
Examination Length and Format	Approximately 165 multiple choice questions		
Question Presentation	60-70% independent questions 30-40% case-based questions		
The Cognitive Domain	Knowledge/Comprehension	15-25% of questions	
	Application	50-60% of questions	
	Critical Thinking	20-30% of questions	
Competency Categories	Prevention, Early Detection and Screening	3-11% of the questions	
	Diagnosis and Staging of Cancer	2-10% of the questions	
	Knowledge of Cancer Diseases	12-18% of the questions	
	Treatment Modalities	20-27% of the questions	
	Symptom and Treatment Management	20-27% of the questions	
	Supportive Care	12-18% of the questions	
	Continuity of Care	2-10% of the questions	
	Ethics, Legal Obligations and Research	3-11% of the questions	
CONTEXTUAL VARIABLES			
Age and Gender	Age Group	Males	Females
	Child & Adolescent (0-18 years old)	2-5%	2-5%
	Adult (19-64 years old)	17-26%	17-26%
	Older Adult (65+ years old)	21-29%	21-29%
Patient Culture	Questions are included that measure awareness, sensitivity and respect for different cultural values, beliefs and practices, without introducing stereotypes.		
Patient Health Situation	In the development of the Oncology Examination, the patient is viewed holistically. The patient health situations presented also reflect a cross-section of health situations encountered by oncology nurses.		
Health-Care Environment	It is recognized that oncology nursing is practised mainly in a hospital setting but that it can also be practised in a variety of other settings. The health-care environment is specified only where it is required for clarity or in order to provide guidance to the candidate.		