Cancer Care Basics

COURSE SYLLABUS

2024

Course Facilitator: Donalda MacDonald

Course Authors: Donalda MacDonald and Komal Patel

Course Offering: de Souza Institute

Course Format: eLearning

Contact Information: Donalda MacDonald
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Registration: Required

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This online course will introduce health care professionals to oncology. Oncology patients receive care from all health care settings – including tertiary care centres, general hospitals, community care clinics, long term care and home care. They receive care from many health care professionals, depending on their disease, treatment and needs. Given the increasing complexity of this growing patient population, caring for people with cancer and their families involves a particular set of skills and knowledge from a variety of health care professionals.

This course will introduce the essential concepts in oncology, and provide fundamental information to those who work with oncology patients and their families.

Although learners can complete the various components of the course at their own pace, the course must be **completed in its entirety** within **12 weeks** of the course start date (this date can be found on the course information page in *My Account*).

Accreditation:

This self-directed course is accredited by the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA). It meets the standards of quality for continuing professional development (CPD) in Canada.

Domain of Practice	Treatment and Delivery of Evidence Based Care
Learning Hours	25 hours
de Souza Credit	0.5 credits

B. COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

- Briefly review normal cell biology and lab values
- Explain key concepts of cancer, including genetics and carcinogenesis
- Explain how a diagnosis of cancer is made, the diagnostic testing necessary to identify stage of disease, and the current treatments available for cancer
- Describe the psychosocial aspects of cancer including screening for distress and sexuality
- List some of the common survivorship issues
- List and describe six common symptoms of cancer, their assessment and management

C. MODE OF LEARNING

eLearning

eLearning is the primary mode of learning for this course. eLearning is offered through the de Souza eLearning centre, and will cover the following activities: the acquisition of knowledge via self-directed reading and module activity completion, and knowledge assessment via quizzes and tests. The eLearning environment fosters a self-directed approach for participants to progress through the modules at a convenient time, either at home or work.

- Learning and application: Sections and modules are developed by the de Souza education team to reflect the latest knowledge in Oncology Practice. The content is up to date and the learning format is interactive.
- Knowledge assessment: see more detailed description under section D.
- Technical support will be provided throughout the course.

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 before you begin the eLearning modules for the course.
- eLearning modules and quizzes **(see Section G – Course Timeline, for more details)**.
- Knowledge assessment:
  - o **Sections 1-5**

    Participants will be tested on their knowledge after Sections 1-5 by completing a 35 question quiz.

    Participants must successfully answer 25/35 questions correctly (71%) to pass. There is a time limit of 45 minutes for this quiz.

    Participants will have a maximum of two attempts for this quiz.
  - o **Section 6**

    Participants are required to complete 6 case studies in Section 6 (6 symptoms x 7 questions per symptom for a total of 42 questions). Participants must successfully answer 5/7 questions correctly (71%) for each of the case studies.

    Note: There is no time limit for these case studies.
  - o **Note:** The final course grade is based on successful completion of **all modules, the Quiz for Sections 1-5, and all Case Studies in Section 6.**

- Post evaluation: At the end of the course, you will be required to complete the online post course evaluation through eLearning.

When you have successfully met all the above requirements, you will receive an email containing instructions on how to download your certificate of completion, and will receive credit towards obtaining your de Souza designation.

E. TIME REQUIREMENT AND EXPECTATIONS FOR PARTICIPANTS

To be successful in completing this course, you are encouraged to set aside 2-3 hours each week to complete each section, as learning is primarily self-directed. The expected number of hours to complete this course is 25 hours.

Sections and modules are to be completed sequentially; participants can choose to go ahead and complete learning activities in multiple sections and modules at once, however, all course requirements must be completed within 12 weeks.

Your course activity completion will be reflected in your grade book. You will be expected to complete all six sections (22 modules) through the eLearning system. It is strongly recommended that participants not plan a vacation during the course period.

F. FACILITATOR AVAILABILITY

As the facilitator for this course, I will be responsible for answering questions related to course content and will be available to you for questions throughout the course. You can expect me to respond within 24 hours during the week and 48 hours on the weekend. You can contact me at Donalda.MacDonald@desouzainstitute.com.

Technical support is available by contacting support@desouzainstitute.com.

G. COURSE TIMELINE

The following sections/modules are to be completed in sequential order according to numerical identifier. It is the participant's responsibility to ensure that all mandatory course requirements are completed within 12 weeks of the date you started the course.

Cancer Care Basics – Course Content	
Section	**Topic / Module**
Intro	Cancer Care Basics Learner Agreement Participant Baseline Survey
1. Cancer	1. Cell Biology 2. Hematology and Normal Lab Values 3. Carcinogenesis 4. Canadian Cancer Statistics
2. Diagnosis and Staging	1. Diagnosis 2. Diagnostic Testing 3. Staging
3. Treatment of Cancer	1. Principles of Treatment 2. Surgery 3. Radiation 4. Chemotherapy and Biotherapy 5. Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant
4. Psychosocial Oncology	1. Screening for Distress 2. Sexuality
5. Survivorship	1. Survivorship
Quiz	Quiz for Sections 1-5
6. Symptom Management	1. Assessment of Symptoms 2. Fatigue 3. Nausea and Vomiting 4. Constipation 5. Diarrhea 6. Myelosuppression and Mucositis 7. Peripheral Neuropathy Case studies associated with each module can be completed after each module.
Final Evaluation	Participant Post Survey

H. FACILITATOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Donalda has been an oncology nurse for 49 years, 35 years working in clinical oncology at Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto, where she worked with both inpatients and outpatients, and with both solid tumours and hematological malignancies. For the last 14 she has been an educator at de Souza. Her lifelong education focus has been on the novice oncology nurse, whether that nurse is a new grad or someone transferring into oncology from another clinical area. Donalda has held certification in oncology from both the Oncology Nursing Society and the CNA since 1998. She has served on the board of directors for the Canadian Association of Nurses in Oncology for seven years, five of which she was treasurer. Donalda has done item writing and been a reviewer for the CNA oncology certification exam.

In 2008, Donalda was nominated by her oncology peers and was one of the 100 nurses from across Canada to receive the CNA Centennial Award honouring her work in education of novice oncology nurses. In 2014, she received the Lifetime Achievement Award from CANO. In 2023, she was the recipient of the Pfizer Award of Excellence in Nursing Education.

Additional Information Regarding Learning at de Souza Institute

A. General Course Questions Forum

The online discussion forum is set up for participants to exchange ideas and ask/answer questions posted by other participants. Participation in the forum is optional.

B. 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 CINHAL 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/.

C. 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, Donalda.MacDonald@desouzainstitute.com.

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.

D. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Click the links below to review de Souza's 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. Please consult your local educator if you have specific questions related to local protocols and policies as they vary among healthcare organizations.