



Cancer Care Basics

COURSE SYLLABUS (CANB00ODM26)

2026-2027

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Course Format: Self-study eLearning

Contact Information and Technical Support: support@desouzainstitute.com

Registration: Required

Eligibility: Available to all regulated health care professionals working along the cancer care continuum. This course is designed for front line multidisciplinary providers, including family physicians, nurses, pharmacists and allied health care providers.

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A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This online course will introduce the essential concepts in oncology and provide fundamental information to health care professionals who work with oncology patients and their families. Oncology patients receive care from all health care settings – including tertiary care centres, general hospitals, community care clinics, long term care and home care; and from a variety of 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.

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.

B. de Souza DESIGNATION CREDITS

Domain of Practice Treatment and Delivery of Evidence Based Care

Learning Hours 25 hours

de Souza Credit 0.5

C. COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

- Describe the process of carcinogenesis and identify the key biological behaviours cancer cells acquire that enable them to grow uncontrollably, survive, and spread.
- Explain the clinical significance of tumour biomarkers and molecular testing.
- Explain how a diagnosis of cancer is made and the testing necessary to diagnosis and stage the disease.
- Describe the use and therapeutic approaches of surgery, radiation therapy, chemotherapy, biotherapy, and hematopoietic stem cell transplant in treatment of 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, assessment, and management.

D. MODE OF LEARNING

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.

- **eLearning modules:** 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.
- **Study guides:** Each module has a printable study guide that you can download and fill in if you wish. This way you have study notes for the quizzes and course information to keep for your future reference. The study guide is not mandatory and completion of it is not included in the learning hours.

E. MODES OF EVALUATION

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

- **Participant Baseline Survey:** This survey assesses your knowledge, attitude, and confidence before you begin the eLearning modules for the course.
- **eLearning modules:** (See Section I – Course Timeline for more details)
- **Knowledge assessment and quizzes:**

Sections 1-5:

- Participants will be tested on their knowledge after Sections 1-5 by completing a 35-question quiz. A total of 25/35 questions (71%) must be answered correctly to pass. There is a time limit of 45 minutes for this quiz.
- Participants will have a maximum of two attempts for this quiz.

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. There is no time limit for these case studies.

Cancer Trajectory Case Study:

- The Case Study is not graded but is a mandatory learning activity for the course completion.

The final course grade is based on successful completion of all modules, section 5 Quiz, 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 met all of the above requirements, you will receive **25** learning hours, **0.5 de Souza credits** towards obtaining your de Souza designation, and an email (sent within 3 hours) containing instructions on how to download your certificate of completion via your "My Account".

F. 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 which does not include the time needed to study and write the quizzes.**

Your course activity completion will be reflected in your **grade book**. You will be expected to complete all six sections (29 modules) through the eLearning system. It is strongly recommended that participants do not plan a vacation during the course period.

If you are experiencing difficulty completing this course in a timely way, please review de Souza policies in section L and contact support@desouzainstitute.com.

G. COURSE EDUCATORS

[Allison Loucks, RN, MN, CON\(C\)](#)

[Donalda MacDonald, RN, CON\(C\)](#)

H. EDUCATOR AVAILABILITY

This course is **self-directed**. If you have questions about the course or are having difficulty with the course content, contact support@desouzainstitute.com and include the course name "CANB00ODM26" in the subject line. You can expect the Educator to respond to your questions within 24 hours during the week and within 48 hours (about 2 days) on the weekend.

I. COURSE TIMELINE

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

Section	Module	Post Date	Date to complete
Introduction	eLearning Center Orientation	Within 1 st week of the course	Completion by the end of 1 st week
Baseline Survey	Participant Baseline Survey	Within 1 st week of the course	Completion by the end of 1 st week
1: Cancer	01- Introduction	Within 1 st week of the course	Completion by the end of 1 st week
	02- Carcinogenesis	Within 1 st week of the course	Completion by the end of 1 st week
	03- Biomarkers	Within 1 st week of the course	Completion by the end of 1 st week
2. Diagnosis/Staging	01- Diagnosis	Within 2 nd week of the course	Completion by the end of 2 nd week
	02- Diagnostic Testing	Within 2 nd week of the course	Completion by the end of 2 nd week
	03- Staging	Within 2 nd week of the course	Completion by the end of 2 nd week
3. Treatment	01- Principles of Treatment	Within 3 rd week of the course	Completion by the end of 3 rd week
Surgery	02- Surgery	Within 3 rd week of the course	Completion by the end of 3 rd week
Radiation	03a-Radiation Principles	Within 3 rd week of the course	Completion by the end of 3 rd week
	03b-Radiobiology	Within 3 rd week of the course	Completion by the end of 3 rd week
	03c-Radiation Planning	Within 4 th week of the course	Completion by the end of 4 th week
	03d- External Beam Radiation	Within 4 th week of the course	Completion by the end of 4 th week
	03e- Internal Radiation	Within 5 th week of the course	Completion by the end of 5 th week
Systemic Therapy	04a- Intro to Systemic Therapy	Within 5 th week of the course	Completion by the end of 5 th week
	04b- Chemotherapy	Within 5 th week of the course	Completion by the end of 5 th week
	04c- Biotherapy	Within 6 th week of the course	Completion by the end of 6 th week
HSCT	05- Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation	Within 6 th week of the course	Completion by the end of 6 th week
Occupational Health & Safety	06a- Radiation Therapy	Within 6 th week of the course	Completion by the end of 6 th week

	06b –Systemic Therapy	Within 6 th week of the course	Completion by the end of 6 th week
4. Psychosocial Oncology	01- Psychological and Emotional Distress	Within 7 th week of the course	Completion by the end of 7 th week
	02- Sexuality and Fertility	Within 7 th week of the course	Completion by the end of 7 th week
5. Survivorship	01- Survivorship	Within 8 th week of the course	Completion by the end of 8 th week
Section 1-5 Test		Within 8 th week of the course	Completion by the end of 8 th week
6. Symptom Management	Case studies associated with each module can be completed after each module.		
	01- Assessment of Symptoms	Within 9 th week of the course	Completion by the end of 9 th week
	02- Fatigue	Within 9 th week of the course	Completion by the end of 9 th week
	03- Nausea and vomiting	Within 10 th week of the course	Completion by the end of 10 th week
	04- Constipation	Within 10 th week of the course	Completion by the end of 10 th week
	05- Diarrhea	Within 11 th week of the course	Completion by the end of 11 th week
	06- Myelosuppression and Mucositis	Within 11 th week of the course	Completion by the end of 11 th week
	07- Peripheral Neuropathy	Within 12 th week of the course	Completion by the end of 12 th week
Cancer Trajectory Case Study		Within 12 th week of the course	Completion by the end of 12 th week
Final Evaluation	Participant Post Survey	Before course close date	Before course close date

J. VIRTUAL LIBRARY

de Souza Institute has a virtual library that you can access 24 hours a day using your de Souza Institute login and password. There are 1500 e-Journals, 200 e-books and 8 on-line databases (e.g., CINAHL, Ovid-Medline) you can access to get the additional reading materials for your course.

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

K. TECHNICAL SUPPORT

eLearning Centre Orientation

The eLearning Centre Orientation [Course: eLearning Centre Orientation \(ELRN01AUG24\) | eLearning Centre](#) tells you what you need to know about eLearning and how to navigate through the de Souza Institute eLearning centre and courses. It is **strongly** recommended that you complete this very short free course.

de Souza Institute Support

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

L. 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](#)