



Foundations in Oncology Nursing Practice

COURSE SYLLABUS (FOND00ODM26)

2026-2027

Course Educators:

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Course Format: Self-study eLearning

Contact Information and Technical Support: support@desouzainstitute.com

Registration: Required

Eligibility: Available to all registered nurses working along the cancer care continuum.

Prerequisite: None

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A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This online course will introduce registered nurses to the art and science of oncology nursing practice. Oncology patients receive care from all health care settings - including acute care teaching hospitals, tertiary care centers, general hospitals and community care. Given the increasing complexity of this growing patient population, caring for people with cancer and their families involves a particular set of advanced skills and knowledge.

This course covers foundational concepts in oncology nursing practice. It is up to date, with engaging and clinically relevant interactive activities and case studies. The following areas are included in the curriculum: carcinogenesis, tumour biomarkers and molecular testing, diagnosis, staging, and treatment of cancer with symptom management for 6 common side effects; disease process for four most common types of cancers: lung, colorectal, breast and prostate cancer; common oncological emergencies including immediate nursing assessment and interventions; as well as the management of cancer symptoms and psychosocial distress.

Although learners can complete the various components of the course at their own pace, the course must be **completed in its entirety** within **16 weeks** of the course start date (this date can be found on the course information page in *My Account*).

B. de Souza DESIGNATION CREDITS

Domain of Practice	Treatment and Delivery of Evidence Based Care
Learning Hours	40 hours
de Souza Credit	1.0

C. COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

- Describe the process of carcinogenesis, key biological behaviours of cancer cells, and molecular signaling in the tumour microenvironment that enables cancer to grow uncontrollably, survive, and spread.
- Explain how a diagnosis of cancer is made and the testing necessary to diagnosis, stage, predict, and monitor the disease, during and after treatment.
- Describe the use and therapeutic approaches of surgery, radiation therapy, chemotherapy, biotherapy, and hematopoietic stem cell transplant in treatment of cancer.
- Summarize the disease process for the major types of cancers in Canada.

- Compare and contrast the various oncologic emergencies and associated manifestations of symptoms.
- Describe the psychosocial impact of cancer including screening for distress, sexuality and survivorship issues.
- Discuss six common symptoms of cancer and its treatment (fatigue, nausea and vomiting, constipation, diarrhea, myelosuppression and peripheral neuropathy).

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 1-4:

- Participants will be tested on their knowledge after Sections 1-4 by completing a 35-question quiz. A total of 25/35 questions (>70%) 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 5 (Cancer Sites):

- Participants must complete quizzes with a score of at least 70% - 75% depending on disease sites. There is no time limit for the quizzes.

Section 6 (Symptom Management)

- 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 (>70%) for each of the case studies. There is no time limit for these case studies.

Section 7 (Oncologic Emergencies)

- Participants must complete a 15 question quiz with a score of at least 80% (12/15 questions = 80%). There is no time limit for the quiz.

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 1-4 Quiz, all Section 5 Quizzes, all Case Studies in Section 6, all Section 7 Quizzes, and the Cancer Trajectory Case Study.

- **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 **40** learning hours, **1.0 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 **40 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 seven sections (44 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 "FOND00ODM26" 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 16 weeks from the time you register for the course.

Section	Module	Post Date	Date to complete
Introduction	eLearning Center Orientation	Within 1st week of the course	Completion by the end of 1 st week
Baseline Survey	Participant Baseline Survey	Within 1st week of the course	Completion by the end of 1st 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 1st week
	03- Biomarkers	Within 1 st week of the course	Completion by the end of 1st 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- Screening for 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
	01- Survivorship	Within 8 th week of the course	Completion by the end of 8 th week
Section 1-4 Test		Within 8 th week of the course	Completion by the end of 8 th week
5. Cancer Sites	Lung Cancer	Within 9 th week of the course	Completion by the end of 9 th week
	Breast Cancer	Within 10 th week of the course	Completion by the end of 10 th week
	Colorectal Cancer	Within 11 th week of the course	Completion by the end of 11 th week
	Prostate Cancer	Within 12 th week of the course	Completion by the end of 12 th week
6. Symptom Management	Case studies associated with each module can be completed after each module.		
	01- Assessment of Symptoms	Within 13 th week of the course	Completion by the end of 13 th week
	02- Fatigue	Within 13 th week of the course	Completion by the end of 13 th week
	03- Nausea and vomiting	Within 13 th week of the course	Completion by the end of 13 th week
	04- Constipation	Within 13 th week of the course	Completion by the end of 13 th week
	05- Diarrhea	Within 14 th week of the course	Completion by the end of 14 th week
	06- Myelosuppression and Mucositis	Within 14 th week of the course	Completion by the end of 14 th week
	07- Peripheral Neuropathy	Within 14 th week of the course	Completion by the end of 14 th week

7. Oncological Emergencies		Within 15 th week of the course	Completion by the end of 16 th week
Cancer Trajectory Case Study		Within 16 th week of the course	Completion by the end of 16 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 [de Souza Institute eLearning Centre Orientation Course](#) is a free, and brief module designed to help you navigate your online courses successfully. If this is your first time accessing the platform, completing this orientation will teach you how the learning management system works and how to track your progress.

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](#)