



Foundations in Oncology Nursing Practice

COURSE SYLLABUS

2024

Course Facilitator: Donalda MacDonald

Course Author: Donalda MacDonald

Course Format: eLearning

Contact Information

Facilitator: Donalda MacDonald - donalda.macdonald@desouzainstitute.com

Technical Support: support@desouzainstitute.com

Registration: Required

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

Prerequisite: None

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This 16 week online course will introduce 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 centres, general hospitals and community settings. 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 will introduce nurses to essential concepts in oncology nursing practice and provide fundamental information to those who work with oncology patients.

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

Domain of Practice	Treatment and Delivery of Evidence Based Care
Learning Hours	40 hours
de Souza Credit	0.75 credits

B. COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

- Explain cell biology and genetics in both the cancer process and throughout all stages of the cancer trajectory
- 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)

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 H on pages 6-8 of the course syllabus outlines weekly expectations for participants.

- Learning and application: Sections and modules were developed by the de Souza education team to reflect the latest knowledge in Oncology Practice. The

content is up-to-date and includes interactive application exercises and links to the latest clinical guidelines.

- **Study Guides:** Each course section has a printable study guide that you can print and 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 evaluation:** this survey assesses your knowledge, attitude, and confidence before you begin the eLearning modules for the course.
- eLearning modules/units/sections, required readings, and tests.
- Knowledge assessment (participants must complete the following):
 - **Sections 1-4**
Participants must complete a 35 question quiz with a score of at least 70%.
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% in **each of the four** disease sites.
Participants will have a maximum of two attempts per quiz.
 - **Section 6 (Symptom Management)**
Participants must complete quizzes with a score of at least 70% in **each of the six** case studies.
Participants will have a maximum of two attempts per quiz.
 - **Section 7 (Oncological Emergencies)**
Participants must complete a 20 question quiz with a score of at least 70%.
Participants will have a maximum of two attempts for this quiz.
- **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, within two business days, 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. COMPETENCIES

A number of competencies will be evident within each module and encompasses both the Canadian Association of Nurses in Oncology and the College of Nurses of Ontario Standards of Practice.

College of Nurses of Ontario Standards

- Accountability
- Continuing competence
- Knowledge
- Knowledge application
- Leadership
- Relationships
- Professional relationships

Standards & guidelines link:

<http://www.cno.org/en/learn-about-standards-guidelines/standards-and-guidelines/>

Canadian Association of Nurses in Oncology:

- 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

[CANO Practice Standards](#)
[Standards for Specialized Oncology Nurse](#)

F. TIME REQUIREMENT AND EXPECTATIONS FOR PARTICIPANTS

To be successful in completing this course, you are encouraged to set aside 2 to 3 hours each week to complete each section as learning is primarily self-directed. The total learning hours for this course is 40 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 16 weeks.

If you have vacation planned within the timeframe, ensure that you include that time away in your schedule to complete all modules.

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

G. 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.

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, and the last 14 as 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 CANO-ACIO Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2023, she was the recipient of the Pfizer Award of Excellence in Education.

I. COURSE TIMELINE

The following sections/modules are to be completed in sequential order according to numerical identifier. The course timeline below is just a guide to help those participants who require a guide. It is the participant’s responsibility to ensure that all course requirements are completed within 16 weeks of the date you started the course.

Section	Topic/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	Cell Biology	Within 1 st week of the course	Completion by the end of 1 st week
	Hematology and Normal Lab Values	Within 1 st week of the course	Completion by the end of 1 st week
	Carcinogenesis	Within 2 nd week of the course	Completion by the end of 2 nd week
	Canadian Cancer Statistics	Within 2 nd week of the course	Completion by the end of 2 nd week
2: Diagnosis and Staging	Diagnosis	Within 3 th week of the course	Completion by the end of 3 rd week
	Diagnostic Testing	Within 3 th week of the course	Completion by the end of 3 rd week
	Staging	Within 4 th week of the course	Completion by the end of 4 th week
3: Treatment of Cancer	Principles of Treatment	Within 4 th week of the course	Completion by the end of 4 th week
	Surgery	Within 4 th week of the course	Completion by the end of 4 th week

	Radiation	Within 5 th week of the course	Completion by the end of 5 th week
	Chemotherapy and Biotherapy	Within 6 th week of the course	Completion by the end of 6 th week
	Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant	Within 7 th week of the course	Completion by the end of 7 th week
4: Psychosocial Oncology	Screening for Distress	Within 8 th week of the course	Completion by the end of 8 th week
	Sexuality	Within 8 th week of the course	Completion by the end of 8 th week
	Survivorship	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	Assessment of Symptoms	Within 13 th week of the course	Completion by the end of 13 th week
	Fatigue	Within 13 th week of the course	Completion by the end of 13 th week
	Nausea and Vomiting	Within 13 th week of the course	Completion by the end of 13 th week
	Constipation	Within 13 th week of the course	Completion by the end of 13 th week

	Diarrhea	Within 14 th week of the course	Completion by the end of 14 th week
	Myelosuppression and Neutropenia	Within 14 th week of the course	Completion by the end of 14 th week
	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
Final Evaluation	Complete once all course sections and evaluations have been completed. Complete by course end date (16th week).		

Additional Information Regarding Learning at de Souza Institute

A. VIRTUAL LIBRARY

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/login>.

B. 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 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.

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 educator if you have specific questions related to local protocols and policies as they vary among healthcare organizations.