de Souza
INSTITUTE

Oncologic Emergencies: Core Conditions

COURSE SYLLABUS

2025

Course Facilitator: Donalda MacDonald

Course Authors: Philiz Goh and Donalda MacDonald

Course Format: eLearning

Contact Information

Facilitator: Donalda MacDonald and Philiz Goh

Technical Support: support@desouzainstitute.com

Registration: Required

Eligibility: Available to all healthcare providers working along the cancer care continuum.

There is no prerequisite for this course, though a foundational knowledge of cancer, cancer disease sites and principles of treatment is recommended.

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This 6-week online course will introduce nurses to the oncologic emergencies (OE) which may present before, during, or after a cancer diagnosis. These emergencies may be life-threatening, and prompt recognition of signs and symptoms, as well as initiation of prevention strategies or early interventions, are imperative for a positive outcome.

This course will introduce nurses to the 5 more commonly seen oncologic emergencies.

Although learners can complete the various components of the course at their own pace, the course must be **completed in its entirety** within **six 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	5 hours
de Souza Credit	0.125 credits

B. COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

- Define each oncological emergency (OE)
- Discuss normal anatomy, physiology and pathophysiology related to the OE
- Discuss risk factors, signs and symptoms, diagnosis, treatment and prognosis for each OE including any standardized tools available
- Explain the principles of treatment for each OE
- Discuss the role of the nurse in assessment and management of each OE

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 page 6 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 Oncologic Emergencies. The content is up-to-date and includes interactive application exercises and links to the latest clinical guidelines.

- Study Guides: Each course has a printable study guide that you can print and fill in as you progress through the interactive course modules. Study guides are optional but can be a helpful reference for when the course is over.

D. MODES OF EVALUATION

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

- <u>**A baseline evaluation**</u>: 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):
  - **Case studies for each of the oncologic emergencies achieving** a score of at least 70% for each.
    Participants will have a maximum of two attempts for this quiz.
- <u>**Post evaluation:**</u> 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

College of Nurses of Ontario Standards & 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 1 to 2 hours each week to complete each section as learning is primarily self-directed. The total learning hours for this course is 5 hours.

You can complete the modules in any order you wish but all must be completed within the **6-week** period after you register for the course.

If you have vacation planned within the timeframe, ensure that you include that time away in your schedule to complete all modules. No extension will be given due to vacation time.

Your course activity completion will be reflected in your grade book. You will be expected to complete all modules through the eLearning system.

G. FACILITATOR AVAILABILITY

This course is self-directed. If you have questions about the course or are having difficulty with the course, contact support@desouzainstitute.com. Be sure to include "OEMA" in the email subject line when sending messages. You can expect the course facilitator Donalda MacDonald or another educator to respond to your questions within 24-hours during the week and within 48 hours (about 2 days) on the weekend.

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

H. COURSE AUTHORS AND FACILITATORS' BIOGRAPHIES

Philiz Goh

Philiz began her nursing career in a surgical oncology inpatient unit at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre and moved into the outpatient setting to care for breast cancer patients in all stages of their cancer journey, including medical, surgical, radiation, survivorship and palliative. She has been involved with research in oncology at the Odette Cancer Centre since 2006, which was pivotal in inspiring her to become a nurse and fueling her passion for Oncology. She is certified in Oncology with the Canadian Nurses Association and has a Masters of Nursing in Health Systems Leadership and Administration from the University of Toronto. Philiz has been nominated by her colleagues for the prestigious Canadian Association of Nurses in Oncology Boehringer Ingelheim Oncology Nurse of the Year Award in 2014 for demonstrating the highest level of nursing excellence, leadership, advocacy, and patient engagement and has been awarded the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario President's Award for Leadership in Clinical Nursing in 2015. She is currently an advanced practice nurse educator at the de Souza Institute. Philiz has always believed in teaching and mentoring nurses and other health professionals to provide the best quality patient care for people and their caregivers experiencing cancer.

Donalda MacDonald

Donalda has been an oncology nurse for 50 years, 35 years working in clinical oncology at Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto, and the last 15 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. 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 Nursing 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 **6 weeks** of the date you started the course.

Module	Post Date	Date to complete
Learner Agreement	Within 1st week of the course	Completion by the end of 1st week
Participant Baseline Survey	Within 1st week of the course	Completion by the end of 1st week
1: Hypercalcemia and Case Study	Within 2nd week of the course	Completion by the end of 2nd week
2: Febrile Neutropenia and Sepsis and Case Study	Within 3rd week of the course	Completion by the end of 3rd week
3: Tumour Lysis Syndrome and Case Study	Within 4th week of the course	Completion by the end of 4th week
4: Cytokine Release Syndrome and Case Study	Within 5th week of the course	Completion by the end of 5th week
5: Spinal Cord Compression and Case Study	Within 6th week of the course	Completion by the end of 6th week
Final Evaluation		

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 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/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 through support@desouzainstitute.com. Be sure to include "OEMA" in the email subject line when sending messages.

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.

C. 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.