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## **Patient Teaching for Oral Chemotherapy and Biotherapy**

COURSE SYLLABUS  
2023-2025

Course Author and support educator:

**Donalda MacDonald, RN, CON(C)**

Support educator:

**Komal Patel Saini, RN (EC), MN, CON(C), CHPCN(C), GNC (C)**

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**Course Offering:** de Souza Institute

**Course Format:** eLearning

**Contact Information:** [support@desouzainstitute.com](mailto:support@desouzainstitute.com)

**Registration:** Required

## A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

With more and more oral chemotherapy and biotherapies being developed, cancer therapies are moving from intravenous infusions in outpatient clinics to oral medications taken in the patient's home. However, there are significant safety and adherence issues when a patient is taking oral anti-cancer drugs in their home. The *MASCC Oral Agent Teaching Tool* (MOATT<sup>®</sup>) was designed by the *Multinational Association of Supportive Care in Cancer* (MASCC) to help healthcare providers consistently assess and educate patients who are taking oral agents to treat their cancer.

This 5 learning hour online course will not only introduce health care professionals to the MOATT<sup>®</sup> but will also cover safe handling precautions when administering and caring for patients receiving oral anti-cancer drugs. The course will describe using the MOATT<sup>®</sup> with the following three oral anti-cancer drugs as examples: capecitabine (Xeloda<sup>®</sup>), erlotinib (Tarceva<sup>®</sup>), and imatinib (Gleevec<sup>®</sup>).

## B. COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

- Describe the four parts of the MOATT<sup>®</sup> for assessing and educating patients about their oral anti-cancer medications.
- Use the 8 drug-specific patient teaching topics in the MOATT<sup>®</sup> for capecitabine (Xeloda<sup>®</sup>), erlotinib (Tarceva<sup>®</sup>), and imatinib (Gleevec<sup>®</sup>).
- Explain the indications, mechanisms of action, administration recommendations, and side effects of capecitabine (Xeloda<sup>®</sup>), erlotinib (Tarceva<sup>®</sup>), and imatinib (Gleevec<sup>®</sup>).
- Describe how to apply effective patient teaching strategies to oral chemotherapy and biotherapy education.
- Identify safe handling strategies for health care providers, patients, and caregivers to reduce their exposure to hazardous drugs.

## 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 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 oral anti-cancer drugs, using the MASCC Oral Agent Teaching Tool (MOATT<sup>®</sup>) and Cancer Care Ontario's drug monographs. The content is up-to-date and the learning format is interactive.

- Guidelines and Monographs are intended to enhance the eLearning content surrounding key topic areas.
- 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, confidence, and learning methods before you begin the eLearning modules for the course.
- eLearning Modules: You must complete the modules by the course end date.
- Self-Evaluated Application Exercise: You must complete the Application Exercise, *Using the MOATT® in your practice*, by the course end date. You will self-evaluate this exercise; it will not be graded.
- Case Study Based Exam: There are two case studies with a total of 10 questions. A minimum of 80% grade in case studies must be achieved in order to pass the course. You will be allowed two attempts to achieve the passing grade.
- Post evaluation: At the end of the course, you will be required to complete a post course evaluation. This will be facilitated electronically through eLearning.

When you have met the all the above requirements, you will receive 5 learning hours, 0.125 de Souza credit, and a downloadable certificate of completion via your “my Account”. Please note: the certificate of completion will be available two weeks after the closing of the online course.

#### E. COMPETENCIES

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

**Canadian Association of Nurses in Oncology: National Cancer Nursing Chemotherapy Standards** <http://www.cano-acio.ca/page/NSCA>

**College of Nurses of Ontario Standards**

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

#### F. EXPECTATIONS FOR PARTICIPANTS

We encourage you to set aside 1 to 2 hours each week to complete each section, as this course is entirely self-directed. The total learning hours for this course is 5 hours. You should complete the course sections sequentially (refer to course timetable in Section H). However, you are free

to complete the course at your own pace over the 4 weeks. Please note that there will be NO EXTENSION granted unless there are medical reasons.

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

### G. FACILITATOR AVAILABILITY

This course is self-directed. Technical support is available by contacting [support@desouzainstitute.com](mailto:support@desouzainstitute.com)

### H. COURSE TIMELINE

Suggested course timeline:

	<b>Section/ Module to complete</b>
Week 1	eLearning Center Orientation
Week 1	Module 1: Introduction to using the MOATT <sup>®</sup>
Week 2	Module 2: Safe Handling
Week 2	Module 3: capecitabine (Xeloda <sup>®</sup> )
Week 3	Module 4: erlotinib (Tarceva <sup>®</sup> )
Week 3	Module 5: imatinib (Gleevec <sup>®</sup> )
Week 4	Self-Evaluated Application Exercise: Using the MOATT <sup>®</sup> in your practice
Week 4	Case Study Based Exam

## I. AUTHORS' BIOGRAPHY

### **Donalda MacDonald, RN, CON(C)**

Donalda MacDonald has been an oncology nurse for 48 years, the first 35 working in both inpatient and outpatient units in Mount Sinai Hospital. For the past 13 years, she has been an advanced practice educator for de Souza. Donalda has served on the board of directors for the Canadian Association of Nurses in Oncology for 7 years, 5 of which she was the treasurer. She has done item writing and exam review for the CNA Oncology Certification Exam. In 2008, Donalda was nominated by her oncology peers and was one of 100 nurses from across Canada to receive the CNA Centennial Award honoring her work in education of novice oncology nurses. She has also received the Lifetime Achievement award from the Canadian Association of Nurses in Oncology in 2014.

### **Komal Patel Saini, RN (EC), MN, CON(C), CHPCN(C), GNC (C)**

Komal began her nursing career in 2006 on an in-patient oncology unit where she has had the opportunity to provide direct patient care, precept nursing students, mentor nurses, and educate healthcare professionals throughout the organization. Komal values lifelong learning and has demonstrated this in many professional activities locally and nationally. In 2011, Komal completed an RNAO clinical fellowship that focused on Oncology and Palliative Pain and Symptom Management. Komal holds a BScN (Honours) from the University of Windsor (2006) and holds a Masters in Nursing with a teaching focus from Athabasca University (2014). She obtained her Oncology CNA certification in 2010, Hospice Palliative Care CNA certification in 2012 and Gerontology CNA certification in 2019. Komal achieved her de Souza APN designation in 2013 and completed the Post Master's NP program with a focus in primary health care from Athabasca University in August 2018.

## **Additional Information Regarding Learning at de Souza Institute**

## J. VIRTUAL LIBRARY

de Souza Institute has a virtual library <http://links.desouzainstitute.com/library> that can be accessed to those registered in this course or any other de Souza Institute courses. This resource enables you to access to e-Journals, e-books and 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 online using a login and password.

## K. TECHNICAL SUPPORT

### eLearning Centre Orientation

The eLearning Centre Orientation course (free of charge) 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 course so that you will be able to successfully navigate de Souza's eLearning environment.

### de Souza Institute 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](mailto:support@desouzainstitute.com).

## L. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Click the links below to read de Souza Institute's Academic Honesty and Copyright; and cancellation, incomplete and no show policies.

[Academic Honesty and Copyright Policy](#)

[Cancellations, Incomplete and No Show Policy](#)

A 50% refund will be provided to participants who drop the course within its first week (5 business days) of running. Individuals who drop the course after the 1<sup>st</sup> week will not receive a refund and will receive a failing mark in My Account.

Course content and resources provided in this course are based on best practice guidelines from provincial and national bodies. Please consult educators in your organization if you have specific questions related to local protocols and policies as they vary among healthcare organizations.