



Patient Navigation

COURSE SYLLABUS (PNON2027)

2027

Course Educator:

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Course Format: Self-study eLearning

Contact Information and Technical Support: support@desouzainstitute.com

Registration: Required

Eligibility: This course is available to RNs and RPNs and indigenous navigators.

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A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will focus on the fundamental principles of navigation as they apply to oncology. Theoretical models will be highlighted to enhance understanding of the supportive care needs of patients, as well as the process of patient adjustment to cancer. A person-centred approach that emphasizes support of holistic domains of need will provide the navigator with tools and resources across the trajectory of care.

B. de Souza DESIGNATION CREDITS

Domain of Practice	Patient Teaching and Coaching
Learning Hours	28 hours
de Souza Credit	0.5 credit

C. COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

- List the domains of need, and apply to patients and families across the cancer trajectory
- Identify disease specific patient care pathways to facilitate patient navigation
- Apply a patient-centred approach to assessment using tools such as ESAS-r, Canadian Problem Checklist, and Symptom Management Guidelines to provide consistent physical, psychosocial, and practical patient assessments
- Identify challenges in health information communication and explain how to develop and evaluate patient education materials
- Recognize factors that contribute to a cancer patient's emotional distress, and develop a treatment plan and interventions to support the patient and family
- Describe cultural safety as it pertains to First Nations, Inuit and Métis (FNIM) peoples
- Identify social supports and resources in your community to share with patients/families/caregivers

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.
- **Readings:** are intended to enhance the eLearning content surrounding key topic areas.
- **Discussion forums:** are intended to engage all participants enrolled in the course. This form of learning depends on the active participation of the group. Online discussions regarding module content, readings or activities will enhance knowledge acquisition, understanding, and sharing. It is encouraged that you share experiences, ideas or resources from clinical practice with others in the course.
- **Case Studies:** encourage the learner to apply critical thinking skills and new knowledge in various patient scenarios.
- Technical support is available throughout the course.

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).
- **Case studies and discussion forums** for each module: It is expected that you will participate in a meaningful way to demonstrate learning through the weekly collaborative forum discussion postings.
- **Course 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 all the above requirements, you will receive a downloadable certificate of completion via your de Souza Institute account and will receive credit towards de Souza designation. Please note: the certificate of completion will be available two weeks after the closing of the online course.

F. EXPECTATIONS FOR PARTICIPANTS

To be successful in completing this course, you are encouraged to set aside approximately 3-4 hours each week to complete each section as learning is primarily self-directed. The total learning hour credits for this course is **28 hours**.

Sections and modules are to be completed sequentially; participants can choose to go ahead and complete learning activities in multiple sections and modules but must participate in the course discussion forum for each section/module within the set timeline (refer to course timeline: section I of syllabus).

Participants will be expected to:

- Address and respond to content specific questions from the course facilitator.
- Contribute to group discussions by providing substantive comments, and by reviewing and responding to postings from other participants in each of the seven collaborative forums. Please refer to the grading rubric for the discussion forums. Please avoid simplistic comments such as *"I agree"*.
- Complete the case studies and submit to the course facilitator per the course timetable.

Your course activity completion will be reflected in your **grade book**. Evidence of engagement through active participation will result in a positive learning experience for all participants. You will be expected to complete all modules in the course via the eLearning system.

It is the expectation that participants complete the course work within the course timeline.

Failure to submit collaboration forum postings by the completion date will result in an automatic grade of 0. **Written permission for an extension must be obtained from the course educator prior to the due date.** To obtain a certificate of completion, you are expected to have completed the entire course content.

G. COURSE EDUCATOR

[Aronela Benea RN, BScN](#)

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 "PNON03JAN27" 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 identifier.

Section/ Module	Topic	Post Date	Date to complete
Introduction	eLearning Center Orientation	Week 1: Starts on Monday	Sunday of week 1
1	Intro to Patient Navigation	Week 1: Starts on Monday	Sunday of week 1
2	Information and Education	Week 2: Starts on Monday	Sunday of week 2
3	Assessment	Week 3: Starts on Monday	Sunday of week 3
4	Communication	Week 4: starts on Monday	Sunday of week 4
5	Screening for Emotional Distress	Week 5: starts on Monday	Sunday of week 5
6	Culture and Diversity	Week 6-7: starts on Monday	Sunday of week 7
7	Social Support and Resources	Week 8: starts on Monday	Sunday of week 8
Final Evaluation		Post course evaluation is open on Monday of week 9	Complete evaluation by Sunday at midnight of week 9. Course closes on Sunday of week 9

J. GUIDELINES FOR ONLINE DISCUSSION FORUMS AND CASE STUDIES

Collaboration Discussion Forums - There are 7 discussion forums in the course. The forums provide you with the opportunity to share ideas and clarify your understanding of course content and readings. Your postings will consist of thoughtful reflections based on the questions posed. Additional postings can either initiate a line of discussion or be in response to another learner's posting.

Although your posting should fully articulate your thoughts on a given topic, it should also be concise. To avoid excessively long postings, try to keep your posting under 400 words in length. Try to avoid repetitive messages like "I agree with your posting" unless you are following them with additional information, new ideas or issues. Don't be afraid to disagree with your facilitator or peers as long as you phrase your thoughts respectfully. The idea is to stimulate a thoughtful dialogue, so we all need to take responsibility to both contribute to the discussion and keep it lively and on-going. Sharing of your experiences and giving examples in the collaboration forums is encouraged, as this helps integrate new concepts into practice.

Timeline for posting to the discussion forums: It is expected that participants provide their initial post to the collaboration forum no later than Thursday of each section which starts on Monday and ends on Sunday. This allows others to respond promptly before the section ends on Sunday at 11:59 p.m.

Case Studies - There are 5 case study submissions in the course. The focus of the case study is to identify and prioritize the patients' needs from the domains of need and provide appropriate assessments and interventions using tools and resources identified in the course. Each case study submission should be no longer than 3-4 pages. The case study submissions are due Sunday at 11:59 p.m.

K. SOCIAL LOUNGE

The social lounge is provided for you, the participants, to post news, items of general interest, share information about yourselves and to raise topics of interest beyond the specific questions being discussed in the module-specific forums. This is the preferred location to share resources, links to websites, or other information of benefit to course participants. All messages of a social nature can be posted in the social lounge. This forum is open to all participants, including the facilitator.

During the first week, participants will post a self-introduction in the Social Lounge.

L. 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>.

M. TECHNICAL SUPPORT

eLearning Centre Orientation

The [de Souza Institute eLearning Centre Orientation Course](#) is a free, 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.

N. 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.

Appendix – Grading Rubrics

Grading Rubric for Course

Component	Description	Percentage of Final Grade
Case Studies (5 cases)	Case study submissions for modules 2-6	40 Each case study = 8%
Discussion Forums (7 forums)	Posting and replies in all discussion forums	56 Each discussion forum = 8%
Discussion Forum Participation	Based on participation in all discussion forums	4
Passing grade for the course = 75%		

Detailed Rubric for Case Studies and Discussion Forums

- Detailed information for **Case Study** and **Discussion Forum** marking can be found in the **Course Grading Rubric** located on the main course page.