



---

Foundations of Cancer Disease Sites Series

## Hematological Malignancies

Multiple Myeloma, Lymphoma, and Leukemia

COURSE SYLLABUS (CDSH00ODM24)

2024-2026

**Course Authors:**

Donalda MacDonald, RN, CON(C)

Jennifer Wiernikowski, MN, NP-Adult, CON(C)

Margaret Forbes, MN, NP-Adult, CON(C)

---

**Course Format:** eLearning

**Contact Information:**

Margaret Forbes: [Margaret.Forbes@desouzainstitute.com](mailto:Margaret.Forbes@desouzainstitute.com)

Donalda MacDonald: [Donalda.MacDonald@desouzainstitute.com](mailto:Donalda.MacDonald@desouzainstitute.com)

**Technical Support:** [support@desouzainstitute.com](mailto:support@desouzainstitute.com)

**Registration:** Required

**Prerequisite:** *Foundations in Oncology Nursing Practice or Cancer Care Basics*

**Exclusions:** *Complex Malignant Hematology (CMHE) or Cancer Disease Sites, Part A (CDSA)*

## A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course covers cancer care competencies in managing hematological malignancies. The course is divided into four sections. The first section, *Review of hematopoiesis, the immune system, and diagnostic testing*, contains review material necessary for understanding the disease site modules. The other three sections will cover the essentials of multiple myeloma, lymphoma, and leukemia. There are **14 modules** in total, covering disease site-specific pathophysiology, incidence, risk factors, signs and symptoms, and more importantly, the latest updates in diagnostics, staging, treatment options, and survivorship care. The information presented in this course is fundamental to those who work with hematology/oncology patients and their families.

The **quizzes** consist of a case study for each disease site where you will apply your knowledge to the care of a particular patient living with brain cancer.

Although you can complete the various components of the course at your own pace, you must complete the course, in its entirety, within **8 weeks** of the course start date (this date can be found on the course information page in *My Account*).

### **About the *Foundations of Cancer Disease Sites Series***

The *Foundations of Cancer Disease Sites Series* will consist of **over twenty cancer disease site courses** that you can select and combine to fit your clinical practice needs.

The current disease sites courses in the series are:

- Sarcoma
- Skin Cancer
- Esophageal Cancer
- Stomach Cancer
- Pancreatic Cancer
- Liver Cancer
- Brain Cancer
- Bladder Cancer
- Lung Cancer
- Prostate Cancer
- Breast Cancer
- Colorectal Cancer
- Cervical Cancer
- Testicular Cancer
- Kidney Cancer
- Ovarian Cancer

We will continue to update and add cancer disease sites to the course series:

<https://www.desouzainstitute.com/cdsm>

## B. de Souza DESIGNATION CREDITS

---

**Domain of Practice** Treatment and Delivery of Evidence Based Care

**Learning Hours** 13.5 hours

**de Souza Credit** 0.25 credits

---

## C. COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

- Describe the normal structure and function of the immune system, and normal hematopoiesis.
- Describe the etiology and epidemiology, and identify the risk factors of multiple myeloma, lymphoma, and leukemia.
- Describe the pathophysiology of each disease site.
- Explain the process for diagnosis, specific for each site.
- Explain the staging system used for each cancer disease site including prognostic indicators where available.
- Identify treatment modalities currently being used for each site.
- Identify the nursing considerations for each disease site.
- Describe follow-up care for each site and survivorship issues, if applicable.

## D. 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 F** of the course syllabus, outlines our suggested weekly expectations for participants.

- **eLearning Modules**: Sections and modules were developed by the de Souza education team to reflect the latest knowledge in cancer disease sites. The content is up-to-date and includes interactive application exercises and links to the latest clinical guidelines.
- **Study Guides**: Each disease site has a printable study guide that you can either print and fill in or download to your device and fill in the information you need, as you progress through the interactive course modules.

## E. MODES OF EVALUATION

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

- **A Baseline Participant Survey**: This survey assesses your knowledge, attitude, and confidence before you begin the eLearning modules for the course.
- **eLearning Modules**: You must complete all 14 modules by the course end date.
- **Case Study Based Quizzes**: There is a final case-based quiz for each disease site. Each disease site quiz consists of 8 multiple choice questions. You must answer 6/8 questions correctly (75%) to pass. You have **two attempts** at each quiz to achieve a passing grade.
- **Learner Evaluations**: At the end of each section, you will be required to complete a “Learner Evaluation” where you can provide your feedback on whether the content met your professional practice needs. These surveys are facilitated electronically through eLearning.

When you have met all of the above requirements, you will receive **13.5 learning hours, 0.25 de Souza credits** towards obtaining your de Souza designation, and an email 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 to 3 hours each week to complete each week's activities. The total learning hours for this course is 13.5 hours.

Writable study guides are available to download and fill in if you wish. The study guides are not mandatory and completion of them is **not included in the learning hours**. If you do complete the study guides, you will have a copy of the course content for your future reference; once you complete the course you will no longer have access to the course modules and resources.

There are printable documents throughout the course, which you may want to save or print out.

Your course activity completion will be reflected in your **grade book**. You are expected to complete all three disease sites through the eLearning system.

---

<b>Section 01: Review of hematopoiesis, the immune system, and diagnostic testing</b>	0 learning hours*
<b>Section 02: Multiple Myeloma</b>	3 learning hours
<b>Section 03: Lymphoma</b>	5 learning hours
<b>Section 04: Leukemia</b>	5.5 learning hours
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13.5 learning hours</b>

---

\*Section 01 is for your reference only. The content in section 01 will not be part of the section quizzes, and therefore does not contain study guides.

## G. SUGGESTED COURSE TIMELINE

You **do not** have to complete the disease sites sequentially; you may complete the three disease sites in any order. However, you must complete all course requirements within eight weeks of starting the course.

	<b>Suggested Weekly eLearning Activities</b>
Week 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Learner Agreement</li> <li>✓ Participant Baseline Survey</li> <li>✓ Optional: Section 01 - Review of hematopoiesis, the immune system and diagnostic testing</li> <li>✓ Download (fillable) or Print the <b>Multiple Myeloma</b> Study Guide</li> <li>✓ Multiple Myeloma - Module 01: Pathophysiology &amp; Diagnosis (1.5 hours)</li> </ul>
Week 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Multiple Myeloma - Module 02: Treatment (1.5 hours)</li> <li>✓ Multiple Myeloma Quiz</li> <li>✓ Multiple Myeloma Learner Evaluation</li> </ul>
Week 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Download (fillable) or Print the <b>Lymphoma</b> Study Guide</li> <li>✓ Lymphoma - Module 01: Introduction, Presentation and Diagnosis (0.5 hours)</li> <li>✓ Lymphoma - Module 02: Hodgkin lymphoma (1.5 hours)</li> </ul>
Week 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Lymphoma - Module 03: Introduction to non-Hodgkin lymphoma (0.75 hours)</li> <li>✓ Lymphoma - Module 04: Aggressive B-Cell NHL (1 hour)</li> <li>✓ Lymphoma - Module 05: Indolent B-cell NHL (0.75 hours)</li> </ul>
Week 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Lymphoma - Module 06: Peripheral T-cell NHL (0.5 hours)</li> <li>✓ Lymphoma Quiz</li> <li>✓ Lymphoma Learner Evaluation</li> </ul>

Week 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Download (fillable) or Print the <b>Leukemia</b> Study Guide</li> <li>✓ Leukemia - Module 01: Pathophysiology and diagnosis (1 hour)</li> <li>✓ Leukemia - Module 02: Acute myeloid leukemia (1 hour)</li> </ul>
Week 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Leukemia - Module 03: Acute lymphoblastic leukemia (1 hour)</li> <li>✓ Leukemia - Module 04: Myelodysplastic syndrome (0.5 hours)</li> <li>✓ Leukemia - Module 05: Chronic myeloid leukemia (1 hour)</li> </ul>
Week 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Leukemia - Module 06: Complications &amp; Supportive care (1 hour)</li> <li>✓ Leukemia Quiz</li> <li>✓ Leukemia Learner Evaluation</li> </ul>

## H. FACILITATOR AVAILABILITY

This course is **self-directed**. However, a course facilitator is available to:

- Answer your questions related to course content.
- Monitor the registration process.
- Be available to you for questions throughout the course.

You can expect the facilitator to respond to your questions within 24-hours during the week and within 48 hours on the weekend.

Your facilitators are:

- Margaret Forbes: [Margaret.Forbes@desouzainstitute.com](mailto:Margaret.Forbes@desouzainstitute.com)
- Donalda MacDonald: [Donalda.MacDonald@desouzainstitute.com](mailto:Donalda.MacDonald@desouzainstitute.com)

**Technical support** is available by contacting [support@desouzainstitute.com](mailto:support@desouzainstitute.com)

## I. COURSE AUTHOR & FACILITATOR BIOGRAPHIES

### **Donalda MacDonald, RN, CON(C) – Course author and facilitator**

Donalda has been an oncology nurse for 45 years, 35 years working in clinical oncology at Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto, and the last 10 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, and in 2023 was the recipient of the CANO-ACIO Pfizer Award of Excellence in Nursing Education

### **Jennifer Wiernikowski, MN, NP-Adult, CON(C) – Course author**

Jennifer Wiernikowski is a Nurse Practitioner in Hematology who formerly practiced at the Juravinski Cancer Hospital in Hamilton Ontario. Her clinical work focused on caring for patients and families facing hematological malignancies, autologous and allogeneic stem cell transplant. She is the past secretary of the Canadian Blood and Marrow Transplant Group (CBMTG), past President of the Canadian Association of Nurses in Oncology (CANO/ACIO) and previous Chief of Nursing Practice for the Juravinski Cancer Program. Jennifer has held a clinical cross appointment in the school of nursing at McMaster University. She is a previous Associate Member of the Department of Oncology, Michael G DeGroot School of Medicine at McMaster University. In 2019, Jennifer was the recipient of the Canadian Association of Nurses in Oncology (CANO/ACIO) Award of Distinction.

### **Margaret Forbes, MN, NP-Adult, CON(C) - Course author and facilitator**

Margaret is a nurse practitioner with more than 30 years of oncology experience. She recently practiced as a nurse practitioner in complex malignant hematology including stem cell transplant and cellular therapies at the Juravinski Hospital and Cancer Centre. Margaret also has clinical experience in the treatment and management of people with solid tumour malignancies, specifically breast cancer. Margaret has held various nursing leadership roles most recently as a nurse practitioner lead in complex malignant hematology. She was the clinical lead in the development of the cancer survivorship program at the Juravinski Cancer Centre. In 2016, Margaret was the recipient of the Canadian Association of Nurses in Oncology (CANO-ACIO) Pfizer Award of Excellence in Nursing Leadership. In 2018, Margaret led the development of the Ron and Nancy Clark Nurse Practitioner Fellowship in Hematology at the Juravinski Hospital and Cancer Centre. Margaret has participated in research as both a co-principal investigator and co-investigator in multiple studies. Margaret is an assistant clinical professor at McMaster University School of Nursing. She has recently joined the de Souza Institute as an advanced practice nurse educator. Margaret believes that a strong foundation in oncology knowledge will inspire nurses and other health care providers to become confident, competent and enthusiastic about providing excellence in the care of people and their families who experience cancer.



## J. 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 CINAHL or Ovid-Medline. You can use the virtual library to access the additional reading materials for your course. The virtual library can be accessed 24 hours a day using your login and password.

The direct link is: <https://library.desouzainstitute.com/login>.

## K. 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 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 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](#)

[Request for Accommodation Policy](#)

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