The Role of Licensed Nursing Personnel in Radiation Oncology Part B: Integrating the Ambulatory Care Nursing Conceptual Framework

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**Purpose/Objectives:** To describe the professional opportunities for licensed nursing personnel in radiation oncology within the conceptual framework developed for ambulatory care nurses by the American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing (AAACN).

**Data Sources:** Published articles and books.

**Data Synthesis:** Using AAACN's framework, the researchers identified three roles that are part of every ambulatory care nurse's practice and can be readily customized to radiation oncology: an organizational/systems role, a professional role, and a clinical nursing role. Incorporating the described framework into a radiation oncology nurse's job description can lead to maximizing the use of the professional staff member within the radiation oncology department. This level of professional utilization and validation of the radiation oncology nurse will lead not only to improved patient outcomes but also to greater professional satisfaction, resulting in improved retention.

**Conclusions:** The complexity of oncology therapies demands expert oncology nurses. This clearly is recognized in medical oncology, and patients with cancer who are being treated with radiation are no less important. To optimize patient care and therapeutic outcomes, the integration of nursing in all aspects of the radiation treatment continuum is essential.

**Implications for Nursing:** Radiation oncology nursing is an evolving subspecialty. Nurses can use the information in this article to evaluate their current roles and individual potential for further professional growth.

Key Points . . .

➤ To optimize patient care and therapeutic outcomes, the integration of nursing in all aspects of radiation treatment continuity is essential.

➤ The American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing conceptual framework is a useful tool that can be applied to the role of professional radiation oncology nurses and help define specific roles and responsibilities.

➤ Within the framework, three specific roles can be identified: an organizational/systems role, a professional role, and a clinical nursing role.

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Oncology nurses only require an active nursing license and experience. However, many nurses choose to earn post-graduate education in oncology nursing, whether that be a certificate or a graduate degree. Oncology nurses care for individuals, families, and communities, and the role has expanded to include many aspects of care: Cancer education and prevention. Screening.

Part Eight
Oncology Nursing Resources. Learn more about oncology nursing by searching the web and talking with nurses currently working in the field. Tap into social media, visit your local nursing school to chat with an advisor, and visit the websites of professional organizations for oncology nursing. Some of these organizations include: Oncology Nursing Society. Nursing responsibilities for the patient receiving radiation therapy. The radiation source is exterior to the tumor such as the use of linear accelerator. 1. Remove all opaque objects such as pins, buttons and hairpins and replace clothing with a gown for body X-rays. 3. Tell the patient there will be no sensation or pain accompanying radiation therapy. 4. Advise the patient that he will be alone in the room for the protection of the technician, but will be in voice contact. 5. Determine from the physician what has been told to the patient about radiation therapy. 6. If series of treatments are to be given, include the patient in the planning phase. Academic Medicine Acute Care Nursing Addiction Medicine Administration Advanced Practice Genetics Geriatrics Gynecologic Oncology Hand Surgery Head & Neck Surgery Hematology/Oncology Hospice & Palliative Care Hospital Medicine Infectious Disease Infusion Nursing Internal/General Medicine Internal/General Medicine Residency Library Sciences Maternal Child Nursing Medical Oncology Medical Research Neonatal/Perinatal Neonatal/Perinatal Nursing Nephrology Neurology Neurosurgery Nursing-administrative Nursing-all Specialties Nutrition & Dietetics Obstetrics & Gynecology Obstetrics & Gynecology Nursing Occupational & Environmental Medicine Oncology Nursing Models and Theories: Do They Work in Practice?: PDF Only. Read our oncology nurse guide. Get an oncology nursing career overview and learn about nurse education and salaries. Read tips to help advance your nursing career. Oncology nurses work as part of a team with other cancer care providers and support staff. Their daily activities include the following tasks: Caring for patients diagnosed with cancer. Offering education and support to patients' families. Administering chemotherapy.
"The unique function of the nurse is to assist the individual, sick or well, in the performance of those activities contributing to health or its recovery (or to peaceful death) that he would perform unaided if he had the necessary strength, will, or knowledge. And to do this in such a way as to help him gain independence as rapidly as possible. She must in a sense, get inside the skin of each of her patients in order to know what he needs". 4. Fay Abdella- Topology of 21 Nursing Problems. A list of 21 nursing problems. Condition presented or faced by the patient or family. Problems An oncology nurse is a specialized nurse who cares for cancer patients. These nurses require advanced certifications and clinical experiences in oncology further than the typical baccalaureate nursing program provides. Oncology nursing care can defined as meeting the various needs of oncology patients during the time of their disease including appropriate screenings and other preventive practices, symptom management, care to retain as much normal functioning as possible, and supportive measures upon Integrating the Ambulatory Care Nursing Conceptual Framework. Giselle J. Moore-Higgs, ARNP, MSN, AOCN®, Deborah Watkins-Bruner, RN, PhD, Laura Balmer, RN, MS, ANP, Janice Johnson-Doneski, RN, BSN, OCN®. Incorporating the described framework into a radiation oncology nurse’s job description can lead to maximizing the use of the professional staff member within the radiation oncology department. The American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing conceptual framework is a useful tool that can be applied to the role of professional radiation oncology nurses and help define specific roles and responsibilities. Within the framework, three specific roles can be identified: an organizational/systems role, a professional role, and a clinical nursing role. Ambulatory care nurses provide health services to patients directly in an environment outside of a hospital, wherever it is required. They are responsible for following treatment plans for acute conditions, monitoring signs, communicating with the patient and their family, and promoting overall patient health. What Is Ambulatory Care? - UC San Diego Faculty Interview. Play. Cardiac Nursing. Genetic nurses care for patients with a genetic disease and have in-depth knowledge about the role of genetic in the pathology of these conditions. They are responsible for conducting family risk assessments, analyzing genetic data, researching genetic diseases, and providing support to affected individuals and families. Geriatric Nursing. By defining nursing, a nursing theory also helps nurses understand their purpose and role in the healthcare setting. Theories serve as a rationale or scientific reasons for nursing interventions and give nurses the knowledge base necessary for acting and responding appropriately in nursing care situations. Nursing theories are also developed to define and describe nursing care, guide nursing practice, and provide a basis for clinical decision-making. Much of the earlier nursing programs identified the major concepts in one or two nursing models, organized the concepts, and build an entire nursing curriculum around the created framework.