



POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN NURSING (CANCER NURSING)

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

RCSI DEVELOPING HEALTHCARE LEADERS WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE WORLDWIDE

Module Title	Psycho oncology
Level of Learning	9 NFQ
Pre-requisite course	Primary degree or equivalent
ECTS Credits	10
Module Coordinator	Ms Mary O'Neill Mr Paul Mahon
Module Lecturers	Margaret Deasy, Ms. Aine Byrne & Nurses, Medical and Allied Health Professionals in the area of Cancer Services and Multidisciplinary Team will be included at appropriate stages in the module.

Rationale of Module

Studies indicate that Nurses spend more time with patients at the end of life than any other healthcare discipline and are central to providing care, comfort and support for patients and families (Cooper & Barnett 2005, Rooda *et al.* 1999, Wallace *et al.* 2008, White *et al.* 2001). Psychosocial and emotional distress is often experienced by patients as they attempt to come to terms with the terminal phase of their illness and impending death (Mok & Chiu 2004). Clinical excellence is important due to the frail condition of dying patients but compassion, communication skills, and experience are also very important in caring for end-of-life patients (Mutto *et al.* 2010). Being able to communicate and provide supportive care to the dying and their family is a significant role that nurses need to fulfil and a core component of all nursing practice. (Degner & Gow 1988, Mok & Chiu 2004, Mutto *et al.* 2010, Tan. *et al.* 2006).

Module Aims

This module aims to advance the student's repertoire of knowledge and skills, and provide an opportunity to develop a comprehensive academic and evidenced based approach to the palliative care services and psychological needs of patients within the cancer setting

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this module, the student will be able to:

- Critically discuss and demonstrate advanced clinical decision-making skills to manage patient caseload incorporating nursing interventions and psychosocial aspects.
- Critically discuss and evaluate the nurses role in education and dissemination of knowledge to patients/relatives/staff.
- Critically evaluate and utilise advanced knowledge and critical thinking skills to support the cancer patient and family throughout the disease trajectory.
- Critically discuss and synthesise different approaches to holistic end of life care.



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Indicative Syllabus

Nursing Care of the patient with cancer

- Assessment
- Planning
- Prioritising
- Implementing
- Evaluating

Psychological Considerations

- Impact of diagnosis on patient
- Impact of diagnosis on family
- Breaking Bad News
- Bereavement & Loss
- Patient Education/Empowerment
- Communication Skills
- Anxiety / Depression
- Sexuality / Fertility
- Body Image
- Survivorship
- Rehabilitation

Palliative Care

- Role of Palliative Care
- Pain and analgesia
- Symptom management
- Spiritual care
- Care of the dying
- Bereavement
- Care for the deceased

Psycho-social Interventions

- Screening Procedures for Psychosocial Distress
- Psycho-oncology Intervention
- Social Work Intervention

Cancer Support

- Irish Cancer Society
- Support Centres
- Support Groups

Self Care

- Wellness
- The impact on the nurse of working in the oncology setting
- Reflective practice mechanisms in the clinical Oncology setting

Management

- Staff Education
- Change
- Presentations



- Dissemination of Information
- Audit
- Standards
- Quality

Teaching Learning Activities	Hours
Classroom Lectures	36
Course work preparation	44
Assessment	10
Independent learning time	160
Total	250

Examination/ Assessment Method	Type of Assessment (Continuous/Terminal)	Weighting
Case Study	Continuous	80%
Poster	Continuous	20%

Indicative Reading

Abraham J.L. (2005) *A Physicians Guide to Pain and Symptom Management in Cancer Patients* The John Hopkins University Press, USA.

Arnold E. & Boggs K. (2003) *Interpersonal Relationships*. 4th edn. W.B. Saunders, Missouri.

Cameron E. & Green M. (2012) *Making Sense of Change Management: A Complete Guide to the Models Tools and Techniques of Organisational Chang*. Kogan Page LTD, Philadelphia, USA.

Grassi L. & Riba M. (2012) *Clinical Psych-oncology: An International Perspective*. John Wiley & Sopns LTD. Oxford.

Faul C., de Caestecker S., Nickolsan, A. & Black, F. (2012) *Handbook of Palliative Care*. John Wiley & Sons, New Jersey.

Ferrell B. & Coyle N. (eds) (2010) *Oxford Textbook of Palliative Nursing*. 3rd edn. Oxford University Press, New York.

Feuerstein M. (2007) *Handbook of Cancer Survivorship*. Springer, USA.

Foley K.M. (2004) *When the Focus is on Care: Palliative Care and Cancer*. American Cancer Society, USA.

Ganz P.A. (2007) *Cancer Survivorship Today and Tomorrow*. Springer Science, Los Angeles.

Hayes J. (2010) *The Theory and Practice of Change Management*. 3rd edn. Palgrave Macmillan, New York.

Houldin A.D. (2000) *Patient with Cancer: Understanding the Psychological Pain*. Lippincott, Philadelphia.

Katz A. (2007) *Breaking the Silence on Cancer and Sexuality*. Oncology Nursing society, Pittsburgh.

Kissane D., Bultz B., Butow P. & Finlay I. (2011) *Handbook of Communication in Oncology and Palliative Care*. Oxford University Press, Oxford.

Baldwin M. & Woodhouse I. (2011) *Key Concepts in Palliative Care*. Sage, London.



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Kubler-Ross E. (2009) *On Death and Dying What the dying have to teach the doctors, nurses, clergy and their own families*. Routledge, London.

Meier D., Isaacs S. & Hughes R. (2010) *Palliative Care. Transforming the Care of Serious Illness*. Jossey Bass, San Francisco.

Moorey S. & Greer S. (2007) *Cognitive Behaviour Therapy for People with Cancer*. Oxford University Press, Oxford.

Sully P. & Dallas J. (2005) *Essential Communication Skills for Nursing*. Mosby, USA.

Van Enden J. & Becker L. (2010) *Study Skills: Presentation Skills for Students*. Palgrave Macmillan. Hampshire, England.

Journals Cancer Nursing

A Cancer Journal for Clinicians

Annals of Oncology

Cancer Nursing

Clinical Nursing Research

Cancer Online

Clinical Journal of Oncology Nursing

Current Oncology

European Journal of Cancer Care

European Journal of Oncology Nursing

International Journal of Palliative Nursing

Journal of Advanced Nursing

Journal of Clinical Oncology

Journal of Supportive Oncology

Oncology Nursing

Oncology Nursing Forum

Seminars in Oncology Nursing

Web Sites

www.acpgbi.org.uk

www.asco.org

www.arccancersupport.ie

www.cancer.ie

www.cancerbacup.org.uk

www.cancerstaging.org

www.dohc.ie

www.egtm.eu

www.hiqa.ie

www.larcc.ie

www.library.nhs.uk/gastroiver

www.nccn.org

www.ncri.ie

www.ons.org

www.rnao.org

Additional reading material will be provided by individual lecturers

Date of Last Revision: August 2013