



POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN NURSING (CANCER NURSING)

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

RCSI DEVELOPING HEALTHCARE LEADERS WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE WORLDWIDE

Module Title	Major Adult Cancers (Optional Module)
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

An annual average of 29,745 cancer cases was registered in Ireland during the three year period 2007-2009, representing an increase of 12% from the annual average over the previous three year period with approximately 50% more cancers reported per year than in the mid 1990's. Although cancer incidence appears to be falling, the number of people developing cancer is rising as the Irish population ages. By 2020 it is estimated the number of new cases developing cancer will rise by 107% in Ireland (National Cancer Registry, 2011). These statistics suggest that nurses will be responsible for the care of a larger population of cancer patients in the future and therefore increases the urgency to provide a comprehensive postgraduate course in adult cancer to meet the needs of this population.

Module Aims

This module is build on Modules I and aims to provide the student with advanced knowledge, and critical thinking skills in therapeutic interventions to provide caring and competent practice within the cancer setting.

Learning Outcomes

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

- Critically discuss and demonstrate advanced decision making skills relating to leadership and management in the cancer setting.
- Critically evaluate and utilise advanced knowledge and critical thinking skills relating to the nursing management of the major cancer diseases and side effects.
- Critically discuss and demonstrate advanced knowledge of cancer treatment modalities Chemotherapy, Radiotherapy, Biological therapies, Hormonal therapies.
- Critically evaluate and utilise advanced knowledge and critical thinking skills relating to the identification and nursing management of oncological emergencies.
- Critically debate the role of the nurse as a member of the multidisciplinary team within the oncology setting.



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Indicative Syllabus

Nursing Care of the patient with cancer

- Assessment
- Planning
- Prioritising
- Implementing
- Evaluating

Treatment modalities for Site Specific Cancer

- Brain Cancer
- Breast Cancer
- Colorectal Cancer
- Gastrointestinal Cancer (Upper)
- Genitourinary Cancers
- Head and Neck Cancer
- Lung Cancer
- Lymphoma
- Pancreatic Cancer
- Prostate Cancer
- Skin Cancer
- Testicular Cancer

Cancer Therapy

- Individual chemotherapy drugs
- Targeted therapy
- Biological Therapy
- Side Effects
- Management of Extravasation
- Chemotherapy spills
- Safe Handling
- Research Clinical Trials

Recognition and Treatment of Oncological Emergencies

- SIADH
- Tumour Lysis
- DIC
- Hypercalcaemia of Malignancy
- Spinal Cord Compression
- SVCO
- Neutropenic Sepsis

Radiotherapy

- Principles of Radiotherapy
- Treatment Planning
- Treatment
- Side Effects
- Management of Side Effects



Multidisciplinary Team

- Role of MDT
- Role of CNS in Cancer Care
- Role of Oncology Liaison in Cancer Care
- Role of Dietician in Cancer Care
- Role of Physiotherapist in Cancer Care
- Role of Occupational Therapist in Cancer Care
- Role of Speech & Language Therapist in Cancer Care
- Role of Dietician in Cancer Care

Teaching Learning Activities

	Hours
Contact hours including face to face tutorials & workshops	36
Course work preparation	44
Assessment	10
Independent learning time	160
Total	250

Examination/ Assessment Method	Type of Assessment (Continuous/Terminal)	Weighting
Written Exam	Terminal	100%

Indicative Reading

Brighton D., Wood M., Johnston S.R.D., Ford H. & Ross P.J. (2006) *The Royal Marsden Hospital Handbook of Cancer Chemotherapy*. Elsevier Churchill Livingstone, London.

Doughtery L. & Lyster S. (2011) *The Royal Marsden Hospital Manual of Clinical Nursing Procedures*. 8th edn. Wiley-Blackwell Publishing, West Sussex.

Eggert J. (2010) *Cancer Basics*. Oncology Nursing Society, Pittsburgh, US.

Finegan W. & McGurk A. (2007) *Care of the Cancer Patient: A Quick Reference Guide*. Raddiff Publishing, Oxford, New York.

Giaccone G., & Soria J-C (2007) *Targeted Therapies in Oncology*. Informa Health Care, USA.

Govindan R. (2011) *Cancer Principles & Practice of Oncology*. 3rd ed. Lippincott Williams & Wilkens, Philadelphia.

Hanna L., Crosby T. & Macbeth F. (2008) *Practical Clinical Oncology*. Cambridge University Press, New York.

Hesketh R. (2012) *Introduction to Cancer Biology*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

Itano J.K. & Taoka K.N. (2005) *Core Curriculum for Oncology Nursing*. 4th edn. Elsevier Saunders, Missouri.

Kearney N. & Richardson A. (2005) *Nursing Patients with Cancer: Principles and Practice*. Churchill Livingstone, London.

Kurzrock R. & Markman M. (2008) *Targeted Cancer Therapy*. Humana Press, Totowa.

Langhorn M.E., Fulton J.S. & Otto S.E. (2007) *Oncology Nursing* 5th edn. Mosby, Elsevier, Missouri.

National Cancer Registry (2011) *Cancer in Ireland 2011 Annual report of the National Cancer Registry*. Available on line at <http://www.ncri.ie/pubs/pubfiles/AnnualReport2011.pdf> (Accessed 25th June 2013) National Cancer Registry.

Palmieri C., Bird E. & Simcock R. (2013) *ABC of Cancer Care*. Wiley Blackwell, Oxford.

Tbias J. & Hochhausser D. (2010) *Cancer and its Management* 6th edn. Wiley-Blackwell, Oxford.



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Watson M., Barrett A., Spence R. & Twelves C. (2006) *Oncology*. 2nd edn. OXFORD University Press, New York.

Useful Journals

A Cancer Journal for Clinicians
Annals of Oncology
Cancer Nursing
Clinical Nursing Research
Cancer Online
European Journal of Cancer Care
European Journal of Oncology Nursing
International Journal of Palliative Nursing
Journal of Clinical Oncology
Journal of Supportive Oncology
Oncology Nursing
Oncology Nursing Forum
Seminars in Oncology Nursing
Professional Nurse

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/gastroliver
www.nccn.org
www.ncri.ie
www.ons.org
www.rnao.org

Additional reading material will be provided by individual lecturers

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