



# POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN NURSING (CANCER NURSING)

## MODULE DESCRIPTOR

RCSI DEVELOPING HEALTHCARE LEADERS WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE WORLDWIDE

<b>Module Title</b>	Fundamental Concepts of Cancer Nursing
<b>Level of Learning</b>	9 NFQ
<b>Pre-requisite course</b>	Primary degree or equivalent
<b>ECTS Credits</b>	10
<b>Module Coordinator</b>	Ms. Mary O'Neill Mr. Paul Mahon
<b>Module Lecturers</b>	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

Cancer control should be seen as a whole population integrated and cohesive approach however, cancer its prevention diagnosis and treatment remain a major challenge for our society In Ireland an annual of 29,745 cancer cases was registered during the three year period 2007-2009, this equates to 681 cases per 100,000 persons per year. A total of 8,189 cancer deaths occurred in 2007, of which 7,891 were from invasive cancers. Life expectancy in Ireland has improved in the fifteen years between 1996 and 2006 and 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% (National Cancer Registry, 2011). This module is grounded in a body of excellence and aims to advance the students understanding of the theory which underpins practice by critically exploring and evaluating the biological and sociological issues pertaining to the cancer setting and the relationship between cancer incidence and socioeconomic factors. This module is also underpinned by national standards including: Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA), Department of Health and Children (DOHC) and National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP).

### Module Aims

The aim of this module is to provide the student with advanced knowledge, and critical thinking skills in fundamentals concepts in cancer nursing to provide a comprehensive academic and evidenced based approach to cancer nursing.

### Learning Outcomes

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

- Critically evaluate the role of the nurse in the primary and secondary prevention of cancer disease incorporating best evidence based practice.
- Critically evaluate and utilise advanced knowledge and critical thinking skills relating to the path physiology/epidemiology/genetic and other risk factors associated with cancer.
- Critically discuss and synthesise different approaches to the management of patients undergoing diagnostic procedures.
- Critically evaluate the holistic assessment of the patient, presenting with cancer disease incorporating best evidence based practice.
- Critically analyse the national service provision for people with cancer.
- Critically discuss and demonstrate relevant knowledge of Chemotherapy/Radiotherapy and related side effects.



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- Critically evaluate the multidisciplinary role in the cancer setting.

## **Professional Issues in Nursing**

- Scope of Practice
- Principles of patient safety
- Legal ethical issues, advocacy and informed consent
- Accreditation, quality and risk management
- Interpersonal communication
- Leadership & Management
- The role of education in healthcare.

## **Pathophysiology of Cancer**

- Tumour Terminology
- Characteristics of Cancer Cells
- Tumour Growth
- Carcinogenesis
- Routes of Tumour Spread
- Proliferative Growth Patterns

## **Epidemiology**

- Causes of Cancer
- Studies

## **Prevention, Screening and Detection**

- National Cancer Strategy
- National Cancer Control Programme
- Cancer Prevention Guidelines
- National Cancer Screening Programmes
- Health Promotion
- Cancer Registry
- Hereditary Factors
- Genetic Risk and Testing
- Environmental Risks
- Socio-economic Factors
- Lifestyle Risks

## **Cancer Diagnosis and Staging**

- Tumour Markers
- Diagnostic Imaging Methods
- Staging
- Histology

## **Legal and Ethical Issues**

- Advocacy
- Informed consent
- Scope of nursing practice
- Clinical trials
- Quality & Safety

## **Overview of Chemotherapy**



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- Cancer Cell Biology
- Drug Action and Resistance
- Overview of Chemotherapy

### Overview of Radiotherapy

- Principles of Radiation Therapy
- Types and Administration of Radiation Therapy

### Role of the Multidisciplinary Team Meeting

- Diagnosis & Treatment Planning

### Infection Control

- Standard infection control precautions.
- Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA).
- Vancomycin Resistant Enterococcus (VRE).
- Clostridium Difficile (CDiff.).

### Teaching Learning Activities

Teaching Learning Activities	Hours
Contact hours including face to face tutorials & workshops	30
Course work preparation	50
Tutorials / Workshops	10
Independent learning time	160
<b>Total</b>	<b>250</b>

Examination/ Assessment Method	Type of Assessment (Continuous/Terminal)	Weighting
Presentation at Nursing Symposium (oral or poster)	Terminal	20%
Clinical Practice Improvement Project	Continuous	80%

### Indicative Reading

Benner P. (1984) *From novice to expert: excellence and power in clinical nursing practice*. Addison-Wesley Publishing Company, California.

Brown C.G. (2010) *A Guide to Oncology Symptom Management*. Oncology Nursing Society, Pittsburgh USA.

Chang E., Daly J. & Elliott D. (2006) *Pathophysiology Applied to Nursing Practice*. Mosby Elsevier, New South Wales.

Corner J. & Bailey C. (2008) *Cancer Nursing Care in Context*. 2nd ed. Blackwell, Oxford.

Department of Health (1996) *Cancer Services in Ireland: A National Strategy*. Dublin, Government Publications.

Department of Health (2006) *A Strategy for Cancer Control in Ireland. National Cancer Forum*. Government Publications, Dublin.

- Doughtery L. & Lyster (2011) *The Royal Marsden Hospital Manual of Clinical Nursing Procedures*. 8<sup>th</sup> edn. Wiley-Blackwell Publishing, West Sussex.
- Govindan R. (2011) *Cancer Principles & Practice of Oncology*. 3<sup>rd</sup> edn. Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, Philadelphia.
- Green J. & Tones K. (2010) *Health Promotion Planning and Strategies*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edn. SAGE Publications Ltd, London.
- 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.
- Iwamoto R., Haas M. & Gosselin T. (2012) *Manual for Radiation Oncology Nursing Practice and Education*. Oncology Nursing Society, Pittsburgh.
- Kaplan M. (2013) *Understanding and Managing Oncologic Emergencies: A Resource for Nurses*. Oncology Nursing Society, Pittsburgh, US.
- Kearney N. & Richardson A. (2006) *Nursing Patients with Cancer: Principles and Practice*. Churchill Livingstone, London.
- Langhorne M.E., Fulton J.S. & Otto SE. (2007) *Oncology Nursing*. 5<sup>th</sup> edn. Mosby Elsevier, St Louis, Missouri.
- McMillan K & Weyers J. (2011) *How to write essays & assignments* 2<sup>nd</sup> edn. Pearson, Essex.
- Naidoo J. & Wills J. (2009) *Foundations of Health Promotion. (Public Health & Health Promotion)*. 3<sup>rd</sup> edn. Bailliere Tindall Elsevier, Philadelphia.
- National Cancer Registry of Ireland (2011) *Cancer in Ireland: Report of the National Cancer Registry*. National Cancer Registry, Cork.
- Palmieri C., Bird E. & Simcock R. (2013) *ABC of Cancer Care*. Wiley Blackwell, Oxford.
- Parahoo K. (2006) *Nursing Research Principles, Process and Issues*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Palgrave Mcmillan, London.
- Payne J.K. (2012) *Current Trends in Oncology Nursing*. Oncology Nursing Society, Pittsburg, USA.
- Polit D. & Beck C. (2008) *Nursing Research Generating and Assessing Evidence for Nursing Practice*. 8<sup>th</sup> edn. Lippincott Williams & Wilkins Philadelphia.
- Polovich M., Whitford J.M & Olsen M. (2009) *Chemotherapy and Biotherapy Guidelines and Recommendations for Practice*. Oncology Nursing Society, Pittsburgh, USA.
- Seyfried T. (2012) *Cancer as a Metabolic Disease: On the Origin, Management and Prevention of Cancer*. John Wiley & Sons, New Jersey.
- Scriven A. (2010) *Ewles & Simnett Promoting Health: A Practical Guide*. 6<sup>th</sup> edn. Bailliere Tindall, Elsevier, Edinburgh.
- Thompson J., Melia K., Boyd K. & Horsburgh D. (2006) *Nursing Ethics*, Churchill Livingstone, United Kingdom.
- Wilkes G.M. & Barton-Burke M. (2013) *2013 Oncology Nursing Drugs Handbook*, Jones and Bartlett Publishers, Inc, Sudbury, US.

#### **Useful Journals**

A Cancer Journal for Clinicians  
Annals of Oncology  
Cancer Nursing  
Clinical Nursing Research  
Cancer Online



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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

### **Recommended Web-sites**

[www.acpgbi.org.uk](http://www.acpgbi.org.uk)  
[www.asco.org](http://www.asco.org)  
[www.arccancersupport.ie](http://www.arccancersupport.ie)  
[www.cancer.ie](http://www.cancer.ie)  
[www.cancerbacup.org.uk](http://www.cancerbacup.org.uk)  
[www.cancerstaging.org](http://www.cancerstaging.org)  
[www.dohc.ie](http://www.dohc.ie)  
[www.egtm.eu](http://www.egtm.eu)  
[www.hiqa.ie](http://www.hiqa.ie)  
[www.larcc.ie](http://www.larcc.ie)  
[www.library.nhs.uk/gastroliver](http://www.library.nhs.uk/gastroliver)  
[www.nccn.org](http://www.nccn.org)  
[www.ncri.ie](http://www.ncri.ie)  
[www.ons.org](http://www.ons.org)  
[www.rnao.org](http://www.rnao.org)

**Additional reading material will be provided by individual lecturers**

**Date of Last Revision: August 2013**