

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The mission of the Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation (ONCC) is “to promote health and safety by validating competence and ensuring life-long learning in oncology nursing and related specialties.”¹ ONCC requested a Role Delineation Study from Prometric for the Advanced Oncology Certified Nurse Practitioner (AOCNP®) Exam.

A role delineation study is designed to obtain descriptive information about the tasks performed on a job and the knowledge needed to adequately perform those tasks. The purpose of the role delineation study was to:

- validate the tasks and knowledge important for the AOCNP®; and,
- develop test specifications for the AOCNP® Exam.

Conduct of the Role Delineation Study

The role delineation study consisted of several activities: background research, collaboration with subject matter experts to ensure representativeness of the tasks and knowledge statements; survey development; survey dissemination; compilation of survey results; and test specifications development. The successful outcome of the role delineation study depended on the excellent information provided by AOCNP® professionals.

Survey Development

Survey research is an effective way to identify the tasks and knowledge that are important for the AOCNP®. The task and knowledge statements included on the survey covered six domains of practice. The development of the survey was based on a draft of task and knowledge statements compiled from a variety of resources, but primarily on the previous role delineation study conducted in 2012.

Survey Content

The survey, disseminated in July of 2018, consisted of five sections. Prometric distributed the survey to AOCNP® professionals using a list provided by ONCC. As an incentive to complete the survey, participants could enter a drawing to win a gift card from ONCC.

Survey Sections
Section 1: Background and General Information
Section 2: Tasks
Section 3: Knowledge
Section 4: Recommendations for Test Content
Section 5: Comments

¹ [ONCC Web Site](#) retrieved 9/08/2018

Results

Survey Response

A total of 212 AOCNP® and AOCN® professionals submitted completed surveys. Based on the analysis of survey responses, a representative group of AOCNP® professionals completed the survey in sufficient numbers to meet the requirements for statistical analysis of the results. This is evidenced by review of the responses for each of the background and general information questions as well as confirmation by the Test Specifications Committee.

Survey Ratings

Participants were asked to rate the task statements by the importance for the AOCNP® using a five point scale (0 = Not important to 4 = Very Important). Participants were asked to rate the knowledge statements by the importance for the AOCNP® using a five point scale (0 = Not important to 4 = Very Important).

Content Coverage

Evidence was provided for the comprehensiveness of the content coverage within the domains. If the task and knowledge statements within a domain are adequately defined, then it should be judged as being well covered. Respondents indicated that the content within each task and knowledge domain was well covered, thus supporting the comprehensiveness of the defined domains.

Test Specifications Development

In October 2018, a Test Specifications Committee convened to review the results of the role delineation study and to create the test content outline that will guide the development of the AOCNP® examination. The final recommended test specifications reflected a revision in the content domains, from six to five, and included a distribution of content across these five domains.

Summary

In summary, this study used a multi-method approach to identify the tasks and knowledge that are important to the competent performance of AOCNP®s. The role delineation study process allowed for input from a representative group of AOCNP®s and was conducted within the guidelines of professionally sound practice. The results of the role delineation study can be used by ONCC to develop the AOCNP®.

RESULTS AT A GLANCE

WHO COMPLETED THE SURVEY

A total of 212 responses were used for analysis. The majority of respondents were female, hold the AOCNP® credential, have a master's degree in nursing, work full-time and work in medical oncology

TASK IMPORTANCE RATINGS

A total of 90 of the 96 tasks achieved high importance ratings for the overall group.

KNOWLEDGE IMPORTANCE RATINGS

A total of 73 of the 76 knowledge achieved high importance ratings for the overall group.