PITTSBURGH, PA – May 12, 2015 – The Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation (ONCC) has named UCLA - Santa Monica Medical Center in Santa Monica, CA, as the recipient of the 2015 Employer Recognition Award. UCLA - Santa Monica Medical Center was selected for the award based on the hospital’s support and recognition of oncology nursing certification.

At UCLA - Santa Monica Medical Center, certification in oncology is a priority. All oncology nurses who are not certified at the time of employment are expected to become certified within one year of employment. The Clinical Nurse Specialist-Supervisor coordinates a yearly four-day certification review course that covers the blueprint of the ONCC examinations. Nurses are given education hours that can be used to study for the exam, or take the exam in place of a shift.

Certified nurses are celebrated at UCLA - Santa Monica Medical Center. Recognition includes, a congratulatory card that is sent upon a nurse passing the examination, as well as a banner recognizing the nurse at the nurses’ station. Newly certified nurses are also given a fleece certification breakfast. During Nurses Week, the year’s new certified nurses are recognized by a poster and invited to a special Certification Tea.

Last year, at ONS Congress, a poster was presented on the “A Solid Oncology Unit’s Road to Success in Increasing Certification Rates,” by the UCLA - Santa Monica Medical Center. The hospital’s nurses are also very active in local Oncology Nursing Society chapters.

“We have embraced a culture of professional development as part of our Magnet journey by encouraging our nurses to raise the bar and take the next step in their careers,” says Deborah Lorick, RN, MSN/MHA, CMSRN, OCN®, unit director of oncology at UCLA - Santa Monica Medical Center. “In just three years, the number of oncology certified nurses has more than tripled, from 24 to 76 percent. I feel both proud and blessed to celebrate this wonderful accomplishment with all of our dedicated nurses.”
The award was presented during the ONCC Recognition Breakfast at the 40th Annual Oncology Nursing Society Congress on April 24, 2015 in Orlando.

The Employer Recognition Award is presented annually to an institution for providing sustained support of oncology nursing certification. To win the award, the institution must be nominated by an ONCC-certified nurse, with documentation describing the institution’s recognition, appreciation, encouragement, or advancement of oncology nursing certification.

UCLA - Santa Monica Medical Center, part of the UCLA Medical Center, features 265 inpatient beds, including 26 beds in oncology, and provides a holistic, caring, patient-focused environment. The hospital is accredited by the Joint Commission.

The Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation (ONCC) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote excellence in patient care and professional practice by validating specialized knowledge in oncology nursing and related specialties. ONCC administered the first Oncology Certified Nurse examination in 1986. Today, ONCC offers basic and advanced certification in adult oncology nursing, basic certification in pediatric oncology/hematology nursing, and specialty certification in breast care nursing and blood and marrow transplant nursing. Learn more about ONCC at www.oncc.org.

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