

Summary

This report describes the methodology and procedures used to conduct a role delineation study and develop the test specifications for the Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation (ONCC®) Oncology Certified Nurse (OCN®) certification examination.

The three major activities that comprise the role delineation process described in this report are as follows:

1. **Role Delineation Study Task Force Meeting** – A gathering of subject matter experts (SMEs) to discuss and develop a description of the scope of practice
2. **Role Delineation Study Survey** – A large-scale survey of practitioners not on the SME panel to validate the knowledge topics and task statements developed by the task force
3. **Development of Test Specifications** – The development of a Test Content Outline by the task force based on the results of the survey

Several practitioners were assembled by ONCC to serve as subject matter experts (SMEs) on the role delineation study task force. The individuals selected represent a wide variety of work-related characteristics such as years of experience, work setting, geographic location, and areas of specialty. This helps in developing a scope of practice that is reflective of the roles and responsibilities of the job role and is relatively free from bias. By analyzing the experiences and expertise of current practitioners, the results from the role delineation study become the basis of a validated assessment that reflects the competencies required for competent job performance.

The role delineation process used in this study yields test specifications that accurately reflect the scope of practice, allowing for the development of fair, accurate, and realistic assessments of candidates' readiness for certification. The resultant Test Content Outline indicates a 145-item examination with content distribution requirements at the content area (domain) level. The six content areas are:

1. Care Continuum
2. Oncology Nursing Practice
3. Treatment Modalities
4. Symptom Management and Palliative Care
5. Oncologic Emergencies
6. Psychosocial Dimensions of Care