

Executive Summary

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

The three major activities that comprise the role delineation study 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 involved with the SME panel to validate the task and knowledge statements developed by the committee
3. **Development of Test Specifications** – The development of an Examination Content Outline by the committee based on the results of the survey

Twelve practitioners were assembled by ONCC to serve as subject matter experts (SMEs). 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 utilized in this study yields exam 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 Examination Content Outline (Appendix E) indicates a 165-item (125 scored, 40 pretest) examination with content distribution requirements at the competency area (content domain) level as well as topic (content subdomain) level. The five content areas are:

1. Cancer Continuum
2. Cancer Treatment & Supportive Care
3. Oncologic Emergencies
4. Psychosocial Issues
5. Professional Practice and Roles of the APRN