

Executive Summary

This report describes the methodology and procedures used to conduct a role delineation study and develop the exam specifications for an Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation (ONCC®) Radiation Oncology Certified Nurse 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 role delineation task force
3. **Development of Test Specifications** – The development of an Examination Content Outline by the role delineation task force 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.

A core purpose of this role delineation study was to determine if the current Radiation Certificate Program should be developed into an ONCC Certification Program. Through interviewing SMEs and the expansive task and knowledge list finalized by the role delineation task force, it is PSI's recommendation that the newly updated role of Radiation Oncology Certified Nurse described here is robust enough to be developed into a certification program. As such, the viewpoint taken in this role delineation report is that of the development of a certification program.

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 content areas are:

1. Fundamentals of Radiation Oncology
2. Radiation Safety
3. Radiation Treatment Modalities
4. Multi-Modality Therapies (e.g., concurrent, adjuvant, neoadjuvant)
5. Treatment-Related Side Effects and Nursing Management
6. Continuum of Care and Survivorship
7. Specific Population Management
8. Professional Practice and Roles

