

I. Scientific Information - 10%

Acquires, maintains, and applies knowledge relative to physiology, medical terminology, pharmacology, and population health.

A. Knowledge of:

1. Healthy physiology and the ability to identify alterations in function.
2. Process of clinical trials and where to locate resources for more information.
3. Genetics and genomics and their integration into oncology nursing.
4. Anatomy, pathophysiology, pharmacology, pharmacokinetics.
5. Complex medical terminology.

B. Skill or ability to:

1. Differentiate between modifiable and non-modifiable risk factors.
2. Differentiate between incidence and prevalence in a population.
3. Apply knowledge of incidence and prevalence in a population in the care of patients.
4. Differentiate between relative risk and absolute risk.
5. Apply knowledge of relative risk and absolute risk in consulting with patients.
6. Translate complex medical terminology to answer patient questions.
7. Lead, conduct, and/or participate in the process of clinical trials and counsel patients regarding available trials.

II. Cancer As A Disease - 16%

Applies knowledge of the diagnosis and pathophysiology of cancer and its associated toxicities to patient care.

A. Knowledge of:

1. Steps that can be taken to prevent, detect, or modify the risk of disease.
2. Identification of carcinogenesis.
3. Biology, genomics, and cellular mechanisms by which cancer develops, and metastasizes, as well as how it affects the body in response to treatment.
4. Cancer pathogenesis and the natural progression of the disease.
5. Mechanisms of cancer metastasis and how it affects the body.
6. Common Risk factors, diagnoses, prognoses, incidence, prevalence, mortality, and treatments for solid tumors and hematologic malignancies.
7. Pathological and clinical grading and staging of cancer.
8. Immune system and how it relates to cancer and its treatment.
9. At-risk populations and major complications for those patients.
10. Pathophysiology of each major cancer type.
11. Genomics of cancer and the necessary testing for treatment.
12. Impact of cancer and cancer-related treatment on sexual and reproductive functioning.

B. Skill or ability to:

1. Communicate information about prevention, detection, and risk modification to help facilitate the patient's decision-making.
2. Identify and respond to acute side effects and adverse events of cancer and its treatment, including impacts to treatment considerations.
3. Apply knowledge of biologic, genomic, and cellular mechanisms related to cancer diagnosis to create plans of care.
4. Review and explain genetic and genomic results and make appropriate referrals.

III. Assessment and Decision-Making - 20%

Conducts systematic assessments of people with cancer considering physical, emotional, psychological, and spiritual needs, applying evidence-based knowledge and critical thinking to interpret findings and prioritize actions.

A. Knowledge of:

1. Population based and at-risk screening recommendations for different cancer types and the age at which to begin screening.
2. Age-appropriate oncology assessment tools and when and how to administer the tools.
3. Purpose and importance of diagnostic tests.
4. Oncologic emergencies.

B. Skill or ability to:

1. Interpret, assess, and implement primary, secondary, and tertiary preventive measures related to cancer and its treatment.
2. Assess, interpret, and analyze medical data related to the pathogenesis of cancer, comorbidities, and treatment.
3. Conduct and interpret population-based and at-risk screenings for different cancer types.
4. Identify high-risk factors in family history to refer patients to genetic counseling.
5. Apply age-appropriate oncology assessment tools.
6. Analyze and interpret procedural, imaging, laboratory, and genetic testing results.
7. Monitor and assess biological and laboratory markers to guide treatment options and to measure intervention response.
8. Assess and evaluate patient findings related to the behavioral, physical, emotional, social, and spiritual status of the patient using interview, observation, and physical examination techniques.
9. Use toxicity screening tools to reduce potential impact on health, function, and safety.
10. Recognize abnormalities in diagnostic values.
11. Apply knowledge of oncologic implications in the use of procedural, imaging, laboratory, and genetic testing.

12. Assimilate patient and medical data relevant to the diagnosis from multiple sources, including laboratory values (current and historic) pathology, imaging, consultant notes, and outside documentation.
13. Assess the patient's and caregiver's knowledge of the disease and treatment throughout the cancer trajectory.
14. Grade patient symptoms.
15. Assess patient pain and corresponding adverse effects of the pain.
16. Evaluate the outcomes of an intervention.
17. Recognize and assess oncologic emergencies and provide appropriate interventions.

IV. Treatment Modalities - 20%

Acquires, maintains, and applies knowledge relative to the administration of cancer treatment, incorporating evidence-based assessment, treatment, and symptom management techniques.

A. Knowledge of:

1. Mechanisms of action, diagnostics, dosing, administration, and side effect management for antineoplastic medication therapy, immunotherapy, hormonal therapy drugs.
2. Radiation therapy modalities and their appropriate applications based on cancer sites.
3. Surgical procedures and their appropriate applications based on diagnosis, staging criteria, and cancer sites.
4. Potential interactions among recommended cancer treatment and current prescription medications as well as nutrition, homeopathic treatments, vitamins, supplements, herbals, and over the counter treatments.
5. Cellular therapy preparative regimens, dosing, administration, and management of complications.
6. Complementary and alternative therapies and their appropriate applications.
7. Types of personal protective equipment and when and how to use.
8. Risks of hazardous drug exposure, identification of hazardous drugs, and using personal protective equipment to minimize the risk of exposure to healthcare workers, patients, and caregivers.
9. Access device use in treatment administration and cancer care.
10. Pharmacologic and nonpharmacologic interventions related to pain management.
11. Risk of secondary malignancies and the ability to educate patients and caregivers.

B. Skill or ability to:

1. Assess patient status, safely administer medications and treatments as ordered and monitor patient response.
2. Apply knowledge of potential interactions among recommended treatments, prescribed medications, homeopathic treatments, vitamins, supplements, herbals, and over the counter treatments to recommend necessary changes.
3. Review and ensure the accuracy of the dosage and frequency of current medications (over the counter and prescribed), supplements, vitamins, and alternative therapies.
4. Use and manage access devices in treatment administration and cancer care.
5. Define and differentiate between acute, late-onset, and long-term side effects and their impact on treatment.
6. Implement symptom management interventions and monitor parameters based on selected therapies.
7. Manage pain with pharmacologic and nonpharmacologic interventions.
8. Conduct conversations about opioid medications.
9. Assess and manage adherence to oral anticancer medications, recommended treatments, related appointments, and the patient's response.

V. Care Management - 15%

Develops, implements, and advocates for evidence-based care plans in collaboration with the patient, their caregivers, and the interprofessional team.

A. Knowledge of:

1. Care coordination, beginning at diagnosis and continuing through the cancer continuum and survivorship care planning.
2. Protective measures for immunocompromised patients.

B. Skill or ability to:

1. Assess, intervene, record, and report changes in a patient's condition.
2. Coordinate patient care.
3. Advise patients and caregivers to understand the implications of prognosis.
4. Develop a comprehensive plan of care and implement cancer treatment modalities as part of the interprofessional team.
5. Ensure effective use of patient-centered care across the continuum of disease.
6. Provide patients and caregivers with information about their disease, treatment plan, medications, home care needs, follow-up appointments, emergencies, and referrals to community resources across the care continuum.
7. Identify patients at risk for adverse events and side effects.
8. Respond to patient-reported and observed side effects.

9. Integrate culturally sensitive interventions into plans of care for patients and their caregivers while recognizing one's own implicit bias.
10. Evaluate and identify the role of palliative care from initial diagnosis throughout the care continuum.
11. Differentiate between hospice and palliative care.
12. Apply the principles of hospice and palliative care related to patient care.
13. Assess and care for individuals at the end of life, including grief, hospice, symptom management, palliative care, bereavement, patient and family support, psychosocial support.
14. Coordinate fertility preservation.

VI. Patient and Caregiver Support- 10%

Provides patients and caregivers with information and resources relevant to identified diagnoses, health challenges, complications, or opportunities and implements interventions according to the established plan of care.

A. Knowledge of:

1. Psychology and human behavior to make appropriate resource recommendations, recognize behavioral and affective disorders, and identify stress in patients receiving oncology care.
2. Grief, appropriate communication techniques, and resources for referrals.
3. Parental consent.

B. Skill or ability to:

1. Identify resources available to patients, caregivers, and healthcare professionals.
2. Promote patient comfort, alleviate side effects of pharmacologic therapies, and provide personal assistance, medical attention, emotional support, and other personal care.
3. Implement strategies to support patient and caregiver well-being and reduce caregiver burden.
4. Facilitate and manage difficult conversations with and among patients, families, caregivers, and members of the care team.
5. Provide education and emotional support with compassion, empathy, and respect for the individual and their caregiver.
6. Identify patient access barriers, including social determinants of health, and identify potential solutions to provide quality and equitable care to the patient.
7. Assess the financial impacts for patients and families related to oncologic care to identify potential resources, including referrals to financial assistance programs.
8. Incorporate the physical, psychosocial, and spiritual needs of patients and caregivers.
9. Engage in shared decision-making to support the patient in making informed decisions.

VII. Professional Practice - 9%

Contributes to and implements effective, evidence-based nursing practice and collaborative efforts related to the responsibilities, expectations, and procedures for practicing as an advanced oncology nurse.

A. Knowledge of:

1. Oncology requirements, standards, and guidelines related to the practice of safe, equitable, and quality cancer care.
2. Professional codes of ethics.
3. Professional standards and guidelines, relevant statutes, rules, and regulations.
4. Compensation for care and services (e.g., insurance/payer, stakeholders, authorizations, appeals).

B. Skill or ability to:

1. Recognize and use evidence-based clinical practice guidelines, symptom management tools, standards, and protocols in patient evaluation and care.
2. Participate in quality assurance, root cause analysis, and corrective and preventative action plans.
3. Advocate for the delivery of high-quality, patient-centered cancer care at the individual, local, and national level.
4. Advocate for the needs of the oncology profession at the individual, local, and national level.
5. Collaborate and interact with people of diverse backgrounds without cultural prejudice or bias.
6. Establish healthy boundaries with patients and their caregivers.
7. Participate in quality and continuous improvement.