


Name of Policy: Qualifications for Oncology Nurses Providing Direct Patient Care and to Administer Antineoplastic Chemotherapy			
Policy Number: 3364-110-05-08		Effective date: 5/2025	
Approving Officer: Nursing Service		Original effective date: 9/1984	
Responsible Agent: Chief Nursing Officer			
Scope: The University of Toledo Medical Center			
Key words: Qualifications, Oncology Nurses, Chemotherapy, Administer, Competency			
<input type="checkbox"/>	New policy proposal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Minor/technical revision of existing policy
<input type="checkbox"/>	Major revision of existing policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Reaffirmation of existing policy

(A) Policy Statement

Registered Nurses (RNs) and Advanced Practice Nurses providing direct oncology care within the accredited cancer program must meet one of the following:

- Maintain current cancer-specific certification in their specialty from an accredited certification program; or
- Complete a minimum of 36 cancer-related Nursing Continuing Professional Development (NCPD) contact hours during each accreditation cycle, in accordance with the Commission on Cancer Standard 4.2.

This policy applies to nurses in medical oncology who administer chemotherapy, nurses in radiation oncology, nurse navigators, and nurses in the cancer center or cancer clinic at the University of Toledo Medical Center.

(B) Purpose of Policy

To assure that RN's administering antineoplastic chemotherapeutic medications and biotherapy agents are competent and safe in their actions.

(C) Procedure

1. In order to meet the qualifications to administer I.V. antineoplastic chemotherapy the nurse must:
 - A. Hold current Ohio licensure as a RN.
 - B. Successfully complete the hospital orientation program.
 - C. Demonstrate competency in administration of medications and I.V. skills as defined by hospital policy.
 - D. Hold current BLS (Basic Life Support) certification.
 - E. Successfully complete an Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) Chemotherapy and Biotherapy Course, including demonstration of theoretical content and clinical competency.
 - F. Demonstrate competency in chemotherapy administration on an annual basis, through participation in continuing education offerings and periodic peer review. It is also required that each nurse maintain the ONS chemotherapy provider card current (renewable every 2 years). In addition, RN's who administer chemotherapy must obtain 12 oncology focused continuing education units(CEU) per year or a total of 36 hours over a three-year accreditation cycle to meet Commission of Cancer requirements.

- G. In alignment with Standard 4.2 of the Commission on Cancer, any nurse providing direct oncology care including but not limited to those in radiation oncology, navigation, and cancer clinics must either:
- Maintain active oncology nursing certification (e.g., OCN®, CBCN®, AOCNP®, AOCN®, BMTCN®, etc.); or
 - Complete 36 cancer-related NCPD contact hours every three years.
- H. Oncology nursing competency will be reviewed annually per hospital policy.
2. Qualifications for Nurses in Radiation Oncology, Cancer Navigation, and Cancer Center/Clinic Roles:
- RNs or APRNs who do not administer chemotherapy but provide direct oncology care in these roles must meet the same qualifications described in Section 1G, including cancer-specific certification or completion of 36 cancer-related continuing education hours per accreditation cycle.
3. RN's who have completed a course on Chemotherapy Administration at other institutions may meet hospital requirements provided they present evidence that the program they attended met was an ONS Chemotherapy and Biotherapy Course and course met the objectives of this hospital's program.

References:

- Neuss, M. N., Gilmore, T. R., Belderson, K. M., Billett, K. L., Conti-Kalchik, T., Harvey, B. E., ... & Polovich, M. (2017). 2016 updated American Society of Clinical Oncology/Oncology Nursing Society chemotherapy administration safety standards, including standards for pediatric oncology. *Oncology Nursing Forum*, 44(1), 31-43. <http://doi.org/10.1188/17.ONF.31-43>.
- Oncology Nursing Society Position: Education of the RN who administers and cares for the individual receiving chemotherapy, targeted therapy, and immunotherapy. (Rev. 10/17). Pittsburgh, PA: Oncology Nursing Society.
- Olsen, M. M., LeFebvre, K. B., & Brassil, K. J. (Eds) (2019). *Chemotherapy and Immunotherapy Guidelines and Recommendations for Practice*. Pittsburgh, PA: Oncology Nursing Society.

<p>Approved by:</p> <p>/s/</p> <p>_____ Kurt Kless MSN, MBA, RN, NE- BC Chief Nursing Officer</p> <p>5/13/2025</p> <p>_____ Date</p> <p><i>Review/Revision Completed by: Medical Accreditation Manager, Administrator, Dana Cancer Center</i></p>	<p>Policies Superseded by This Policy: 5-08</p> <p>Initial effective date: 9/1984</p> <p>All Review/Revision Dates:</p> <p>1985 1986 1987 1988 1989 1990 2/1993 2/1995 8/1999 7/2002 7/2005 10/2008 6/22/2010 5/24/2013 1/2020 2/8/22 5/2025</p> <p>Next review date: 05/2028</p>
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