

Glossary



Advanced Oncology Nurse - a registered nurse who is a clinical nurse specialist or nurse practitioner role who has developed in-depth knowledge and skills through completion of a master's degree in nursing and through practice experience in oncology. (Cancer Care Ontario, 2009)

Advanced Nursing Practice - an umbrella term describing an advanced level of clinical nursing practice that maximizes the use of graduate educational preparation, in-depth nursing knowledge and expertise in meeting the health needs of individuals, families, groups, communities and populations. It involves: analyzing and synthesizing knowledge; understanding, interpreting and applying nursing theory and research; and developing and advancing nursing knowledge and the profession as a whole. Canadian Nurses Association. (2008). *Advanced nursing practice: A national framework*. Ottawa, On. Retrieved September 24, 2009 from http://www.cna-aiic.ca/CNA/documents/pdf/publications/ANP_National_Framework_e.pdf

Business Case - a tool that explains how the scope of the proposed project fits within the existing vision and strategic direction of the organization; and provides the compelling case for change in terms of the existing and future operational needs of the patients and the organization.

Cancer Control - services and activities focused on reducing the impact of cancer, including prevention, early detection and screening, treatment, rehabilitation, and palliative care. Health Canada. (2004). *Progress report on cancer control in Canada*. Retrieved January 05, 2009 from <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca>

Cancer Journey - begins with prevention of cancer and moves through screening, diagnosis and treatment to recovery or palliative and end of life care.

Clinical Nurse Specialist - a registered nurse who contributes to the health of Canadians within a primary healthcare framework. A clinical nurse specialist has in-depth knowledge and skills, advanced judgment and clinical experience in a nursing specialty. The CNS integrates five sub-roles as a clinician, educator, consultant, leader and researcher. The CNS provides solutions for complex healthcare issues at all levels with patients, families, other disciplines, administrators and policy makers (CNA, 2009).

Communication Plan - a communication plan is a written document that is specifically designed to help a program or project achieve its goals using written and spoken words. It assists in identifying various stakeholders and scoping out communication needs and possible communication methods necessary to ensure that everyone who needs to be informed about project activities and results gets the needed information.

Medical Directives - written orders given in advance by an authorized regulated healthcare professional for a procedure to another implementer (often a physician is the ordering authority but this can also be a RN in the extended class and the RN is the implementer) to carry out a procedure under specific conditions. Implementers must determine that they have the knowledge, skills and competency to carry out the procedures before undertaking the directive.

Delegation of Controlled Acts - the authorization from a regulated health professional that is authorized to perform a controlled act under their specific Health Profession Act to another regulated or non-regulated professional.

Evidence-Based Care - a philosophy of treatment that relies on up-to-date research as its foundation. It is a practice whereby the healthcare provider finds, assesses, and implements methods of diagnosis and treatment on the basis of the best available current research, their clinical expertise, and the needs and preferences of the patient.

Focus Group - a qualitative research tool in which a small group of people who are knowledgeable about a certain phenomena (typically eight to ten individuals) engage in a discussion on a selected topic of interest in an informal setting. The focus group discussion is typically directed by a moderator who guides the discussion in order to obtain information about the group's experiences, opinions or reactions to specific issues.

Formative Evaluation - one type of evaluation conducted during the development and implementation of a program in which the primary purpose is to provide information for program or role implementation improvement.

Generalist Oncology Nurse - may work in settings where people with cancer receive care along with other patient populations, such as an emergency department, surgical unit or community. The Generalist Nurse may also be new to the specialty of oncology. Once the nurse has acquired additional knowledge, through in-service, continuing education, skill development and practice, and has gained clinical experience in a setting where individuals with cancer and their families are the prime focus of care, she/he may move on to become a specialized oncology nurse. Canadian Association of Nurses in Oncology. (2001). Standards of care, roles in oncology nursing, role competencies. Ottawa, On: Canadian Association of Nurses in Oncology.

Inputs - the material and intellectual resources required to implement the new model of care for an APN role. Examples of inputs include: funding, in-kind contributions, office or clinic space, equipment, personnel and specific expertise.

Liability - in the most general sense, the state of being legally obligated and responsible for one's acts. In the past, liability has been a concern for physicians in cases of joint care with NPs. Similar to physician liability coverage, the Canadian Nurse Protective Society (CNSP) provides professional liability coverage to nurses and NPs in Ontario and in other provinces and territories.

Logic Model - narrative or diagram which describes the logically related parts of a program, including the links between stakeholder needs, program activities and resources expected program outcomes, and how those outcomes will be evaluated.

Key Informant - individuals who are expected to have "expert" knowledge about a particular area/issue/experience etc. Key informants may include:

1. General public
2. Patients and families
3. Health professionals
4. Healthcare administrators or managers
5. Healthcare regulators and policy makers
6. Healthcare funders

Model of Care - a multifaceted concept, which broadly defines the way health services are organized and delivered. It can therefore be applied to health services delivered in a unit, organization or geographic region for a specific patient population.

Needs Assessment - a research process for determining and addressing needs or "gaps" between current and desired conditions. It involves identifying material problems, deficits, weaknesses and advantages, opportunities, strengths and evaluating possible solutions that take those qualities into consideration.

Nurse Practitioner - provides direct care focusing on health promotion and the treatment and management of health outcomes. They are registered nurses with additional educational preparation and experience who possess and demonstrate the competencies to autonomously diagnose, order and interpret diagnostic tests, prescribe pharmaceuticals and perform specific procedures within their legislated scope of practice. Canadian Nursing Association. (2006). *Practice framework for nurse practitioners in Canada*. Author: Ottawa.

Outputs - are the immediate results of activities or evidence the activities have taken place and may present in the form of quantifiable services, events or products.

Outcomes - are the results or consequences of both APN role structures and processes. The impact of an APN role or extent to which expected outcomes are achieved is directly influenced by APN role supports and resources (structures) and how the APN role is implemented (processes). Outcomes can be assessed from the perspectives of patients, health providers, organizations and/or healthcare systems, depending on the dimension, service or activity of the APN role that is of interest.

Participatory Action Research (PAR) - based on reflection, data collection and action that aims to improve health and reduce health inequities through involving the people who, in turn, take actions to improve their own health.

Patient-Centred Care - an innovative approach to the planning, delivery, and evaluation of healthcare that is grounded in mutually beneficial partnerships among healthcare patients, families, and providers. Patient-centered care applies to patients of all ages, and it may be practiced in any healthcare setting.

Problem Statement - a clear concise description of the issues that need to be addressed. A good problem statement should answer these questions:

- a. What is the problem?
- b. Who has the problem?
- c. What form can the resolution be? What is the scope and limitations (in time, money, resources, technologies) that can be used to solve the problem?

Processes - refers to how the APN role is enacted or what the APN does in the role and how various activities are implemented across all role dimensions including clinical practice, education, research, organizational leadership and professional development.

Process or Care Mapping - provides a visual representation or illustration of the patient journey within a defined model and continuum of care.

Qualitative Data - a term used to describe certain types of information. Qualitative data are described in terms of quality (i.e., 'informal' or relative characteristics such as warmth and flavour). Qualitative data are extremely varied in nature. They include virtually any information that can be captured that is not numerical in nature.

Quantitative Data - information that can be counted or expressed numerically. These types of data are often collected in experiments, manipulated and statistically analyzed. Quantitative data can be represented visually in graphs and charts.

Scope of Practice - a term used by licensing boards for various professions that defines the procedures, actions, and processes that are permitted for the licensed individual. The scope of practice is limited to that which the law allows for specific education and experience, and specific demonstrated competency.

Specialized Oncology Nurse - the Specialized Oncology Nurse is one who has a combination of expanded education focused on cancer care and experience, such as two years in a setting where the primary focus is cancer care delivery (CANO, 2001). The Specialized Oncology Nurse might acquire specialty education through a variety of ways; for example, through enrolment in an undergraduate nursing program, completion of an Oncology Certificate Program, distance specialty education; or registration in and completion of the certification exam offered by the Canadian Nurses Association and attainment of the distinction CON(C). The Specialized Oncology Nurse is one who works in a specialized inpatient setting, such as an oncology unit, or bone marrow transplant unit, or in an ambulatory setting where focused on the delivery of cancer care, or in a screening program, or in a supportive care setting, or community setting offering palliative care.

Stakeholder - a person or group that may have vested interests, values and perceived levels of power in relation to the current model of care and introduction of an APN role. Stakeholders may influence or be influenced by the introduction of an APN role.

Structures - include physical and practical resources and characteristics of the APN, the patient population and the work environment that can influence how APN roles are developed and implemented. The work environment includes factors such as organizational structure and culture; societal demands and expectations for nursing and healthcare services; workforce practice trends and economic issues within the broader healthcare system; government funding, healthcare policies and legislation; practice, research, education, political, regulatory and credentialing issues within the nursing profession; and education, role development and social supports specific to APN.

Summative Evaluation - a type of evaluation designed to present conclusions about the merit or worth of a specific program, healthcare provider role or intervention and to make recommendations about whether the program should be retained, altered, or eliminated.

