Advocacy to optimize quality cancer nursing care: Challenges, opportunities, and the vision from an oncology nurse perspective

Immaculate Wambugu, The Nairobi Hospital College of Health Sciences
Introduction

• Nursing is an integral part of the health-care system in cancer management.

• An oncology nurse is a professional who specializes in caring for cancer patients undergoing or recovering from cancer treatments as well as people at risk of the disease.

• Multidisciplinary team approach is key in comprehensive patient care
Introduction

Levels of Nurses working in oncology care in Kenya

• Specialist training
  • Masters Level
    • Oncology Nursing
    • Palliative care
  • Higher diploma programs
    • Oncology Nursing
    • Palliative care
Levels of Nurses working in oncology care in Kenya

• Generalist nurses – no specialist training
• For example KRN, KRCHN, KRN/M, Bsc.N
• Rely on;
  • Induction training
  • CPD programs for example Chemosafe training
  • On job learning
Methodology

- Literature review focusing on challenges and opportunities for oncology nursing practice.
- How can these challenges be addressed
- What opportunities are available in Kenya and those that can be further explored
Challenges

Scope of Practice

• Is it well defined?
• Is oncology practice a specialty?
• Distinguishing the different levels of preparation of the nurse is not clear
• Practice is currently based on what the nurse is perceived should be able to do
Challenges

Lack of patient care tools and reference documents

• Validated assessment tools
• Documentation of care tools
• Specific prescription tools
• Procedures and work instructions
• National policies and best practice guidelines
Challenges

Practice related challenges

- Communication
  - Patient
  - Multidisciplinary team
- Disclosure
- Compassion fatigue
- Workplace safety
- Inadequate work equipment and supplies
Opportunities

• Recognize need for a nurse with cancer care knowledge in care of cancer patients
• Training opportunities (HND, Msc.N, CPD)
• Detailed induction programs
  • Safety
  • Patient care
  • Communication skills
  • Fundamentals of cancer care
• Fellowship for nurses
Opportunities

- Compassion fatigue interventions
- Develop/review
  - Scope of practice
  - Training and induction programs
  - Best practice guidelines
  - Point of care tools
  - Patient teaching guides
  - National policies
Opportunities

- Join professional organizations to network
- Conferences/ seminars/CPD sessions
- Research
  - Validate patient care tools
  - Patient
**Vision**

- Specialty with a well defined scope of practice
- Local Best practice guidelines
- Vibrant oncology nursing professional organization
  - Standards of practice
  - Continuing professional education
  - Online and print reference resources for patients and health care workers
- Networking
- Accessible and affordable oncology practice education
What does it take

The nurse + Regulatory bodies + Government + Training institutions → VISION
Conclusion

- Oncology nurses practice within the multidisciplinary team that is critical in management of cancer patients.

- Understanding the challenges they face is important

- Exploring the opportunities available will achieve the vision.

- Getting the vision will not only benefit the nurse and the patient but also the multidisciplinary team involved in the patient care


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**Bibliography**
Thank you...