

TUESDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 1999

Symposium

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Accreditation of educational programmes

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The EONS established in 1998 an Accreditation Working Group to develop a system of accreditation for continuing educational activities. Accreditation of continuing educational activities for cancer nursing programmes is not common in Europe. The EONS started this project to make a first step in the quality control of continuing educational programmes for cancer nursing.

The Accreditation System will stimulate the national oncology nursing societies to develop continuing educational activities with a high level of quality and to improve standards of cancer nursing practice.

The aim of this presentation is to inform the members of the EONS and other professionals and organisations about the EONS Accreditation System.

Important items in this presentation are:

- (1) to define the definition of accreditation
- (2) to explain the definition of a continuing education course
- (3) to discuss the criteria for accreditation of continuing education courses
- (4) to give information about the accreditation process/procedure
- (5) to give guidelines for completion the application form

At the end of this presentation the results of a pilot will be presented to the audience. The audience is informed about the future activities of the Accreditation Council.

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EONS core curriculum

K. Redmond, European Oncology Nursing Society, Italy

The European Commission has for some time recognised the importance of adequate preparation for nurses in cancer care. In 1988 the European Union's (EU) Advisory Committee on Training in Nursing recommended that a core curriculum for a post-basic course in cancer nursing be prepared. In response to this the European Oncology Nursing Society (EONS) prepared such a curriculum which was subsequently endorsed by cancer nurse experts, nurse educators and professional nurse advisors from European and national statutory agencies in 1991. This core curriculum no longer reflects contemporary cancer nursing practice, nor does it address the unique educational needs of paediatric oncology nurses. Therefore, in 1998, EONS decided to revise and up-date the curriculum in collaboration with the nursing group of SIOP Europe and the RCN Paediatric Oncology Nursing Forum. Funding for this project was received from the EU's "Europe Against Cancer" programme. A project steering committee was established with the brief of organising and facilitating a curriculum revision meeting and of guiding subsequent work on the draft core curriculum. A three day meeting of cancer nurse educators and specialist cancer nurses, drawn from the Member States of the EU, was held in Dublin in December 1998 with the purpose of revising the core curriculum. Following this meeting a draft core curriculum was prepared and circulated to participants for comment. Further revisions were then made to the core curriculum in the light of these comments. The second edition of a core curriculum for a postregistration course in cancer nursing has been translated into the official EU languages and it is now available from EONS, National Oncology Nursing Societies in membership of EONS and on the EONS web-site (www.cancereurope.net).