

A Job Description for the Oncology NP

Much of the literature regarding NP job roles focuses on primary care NPs. The few articles that address the role of the oncology NP (ONP)¹⁻³ fail to provide a job description.

Five ONPs who work collaboratively in a hematology/oncology practice in southwestern Pennsylvania developed a job description for their practice. The NPs are master's prepared and nationally board certified. Their nursing experience ranges from

5 to 23 years, and their NP experience ranges from 1 to 17 years. Each NP has medical staff privileges at seven or more area hospitals. They developed the following ONP job description (see Table).¹

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Table

ONP Job Description

Function

- Works within a collaborative model to provide quality care and to improve patient outcomes by strengthening continuity of care in all settings for cancer patients, families, and staff.

Clinical responsibilities

- Performs and documents comprehensive medical and psychosocial health histories and examinations.
- Gathers data, conducts initial history and physical examination, and formulates and implements treatment plans in collaboration with the physician.
- Orders and interprets diagnostic studies related to the patient's plan of care and response to treatment.
- Provides follow-up care on an inpatient and outpatient basis.
- Initiates consultation with specialists as indicated.
- Recognizes oncology-related problems and initiates interventions.
- Identifies treatment-related toxicities and initiates interventions.
- Demonstrates expertise in symptom management.
- Monitors and adjusts patient medications and treatments according to protocols.

- Diagnoses and treats common oncology-associated illnesses.
- Manages telephone calls related to emergency situations, symptom management, and psychosocial and family concerns.
- Provides continuity of care across settings (home, home health, skilled nursing, hospice, and rehabilitation).
- Supervises chemotherapy administration in office setting.
- Collaborates with physician and chemotherapy infusion nurse to schedule and administer chemotherapy.
- Writes chemotherapy orders and evaluates protocols in collaboration with physician.
- Provides psychosocial counseling and support to patients and families and makes community referrals as necessary.
- Performs various procedures: bone marrow biopsy and aspirate, peripheral I.V. catheter insertion, removal of temporary central venous catheters, infusion of peripheral blood stem cells, and administration of intrathecal chemotherapy.
- Evaluates effectiveness of integrative therapies and their use in complementing medical treatment.
- Demonstrates knowledge of cancer risk

factors, diagnoses, disease processes, and treatment options.

- Evaluates patient intervention outcomes.
- Coordinates discharge plans, follow-up, home health, and outpatient prescriptions.
- Assists with hospital rounds.

Educational responsibilities

- Provides information on disease, treatment, health promotion, and disease prevention to patients and families.
- Educates professional staff through consultations and presentations.
- Evaluates patient, nursing, and community educational programs and materials and acts as a resource.
- Participates in multidisciplinary committees.

Research responsibilities

- Demonstrates knowledge of the research process.
- Collaborates with investigators, protocol nurses, and physicians to support and promote research.
- Recruits patients for clinical trials.
- Collects and manages data as needed.
- Reviews, disseminates, and incorporates research findings into clinical practice.