

Complete Listing of Cancer Core Competency Standards

Domain I: Continuum of Care

Within the context of the professional discipline and scope of practice, a health care professional should:

A) Prevention and Behavioral Risks

- 1) **General**
 - a) Incorporate evidence-based cancer prevention guidelines in their professional practice.
 - b) Incorporate the shared decision-making process into cancer risk reduction counseling.
 - c) Explain the continuum of comprehensive cancer care: prevention, early detection, treatment, survivorship, and palliative care.
 - d) Refer individuals to resources for cancer prevention, screening, and management of precancerous conditions.
 - e) Describe evidence based early detection guidelines based upon risk-factors.
- 2) **Tobacco**
 - a) Describe the effects of tobacco use from inhaled tobacco, spit tobacco, and second hand exposure.
 - b) Incorporate the five A's of tobacco intervention (ask, advise, assess, assist, and arrange) into their practice.
 - c) Refer individuals to tobacco cessation programs.
 - d) Describe the psychological and physiologic symptoms of nicotine withdrawal.
 - e) Name the available treatment options/interventions that can be employed to facilitate smoking cessation.
 - f) Assess an individual's adherence to a tobacco cessation plan.
- 3) **Ultraviolet rays**
 - a) Describe the risks associated with natural UVA and UVB rays.
 - b) Describe the risks associated with tanning booths.
 - c) Assess individuals' degree of sun exposure.
 - d) Describe the characteristics of skin cancer lesions in order to identify patients for referral to dermatologist.
 - e) Counsel individuals on skin protection including the avoidance of sun exposure and use of sun protection.
 - f) Identify patients for referral to dermatologist.
- 4) **Diet and Exercise**
 - a) Describe the association between cancer and diet, physical activity, and obesity.
 - b) Assist individuals with developing a diet plan that is consistent with their cultural and economic environments.
 - c) Refer individuals for assistance with modifying their dietary risk factors.

- d) Assist individuals with developing a physical activity plan that is consistent with their physical abilities.
 - e) Refer individuals for assistance in developing a physical activity plan based upon their physical abilities and risk factors.
- 5) **Sexually Transmissible Diseases**
- a) Describe the association between cancer and Human Immunodeficiency Virus, Human T-lymphotropic virus, Human Papilloma Virus, and Hepatitis B and C.
 - b) Describe the vertical transmission of STD viruses.

B) Screening and Early Detection

- 1) **General**
- a) Explain the benefits and risks of screening tests.
 - b) Explain the possible findings from a screening test.
 - c) Refer individuals for further assessment based upon screening test results.
 - d) Perform an individualized cancer risk assessment based upon a comprehensive health history and current health status including genetic risk factors.
 - e) Refer individuals to resources for cancer screening and risk assessment.
 - f) Identify clinical and genetic counseling resources.
 - g) Coordinate referrals with the financial and geographic needs of the individuals.
 - h) Explain the role of diagnostic examinations in the identification of suspected cancer.
- 2) **Oral**
- a) Describe the characteristics of early oral lesions.
 - b) Refer individuals to a dental professional for a complete oral examination.
 - c) Describe the risk factors for the development of oral cancer lesions.
 - d) Educate individuals about the importance of a complete oral examination.
- 3) **Skin**
- a) Refer for full body skin examinations.
- 4) **Breast**
- a) Describe the methods of breast cancer detection, including breast self examination, clinical breast examination and mammography.
 - b) Perform a clinical breast examination.
 - c) Refer for follow up assessment.
- 5) **Cervical and uterine**
- a) Describe the importance of pelvic screening exams.
 - b) Describe the process of performing a pelvic examination and cervical smear examination.
 - c) Perform a pelvic examination including obtaining cervical specimens.
 - d) Refer for colonoscopy and biopsy of cervical tissue.

- 6) **Colorectal**
 - a) Explain the importance of colorectal screening.
 - b) Describe the procedures for conducting colorectal cancer screening.
 - c) Perform a fecal occult blood test.
 - d) Refer for colonoscopy based upon age and other risk factors.

- 7) **Prostate**
 - a) Explain the importance of screening for prostate cancer.
 - b) Describe the procedures employed in prostate cancer screening.
 - c) Explain the advantages and disadvantages of PSA testing.
 - d) Explain the utility of digital rectal examinations.
 - e) Perform digital rectal examination.
 - f) Refer patients for prostate cancer screening.

- 8) **Testicular**
 - a) List the benefits of testicular self-examination.
 - b) Discuss the appropriate age to begin performing testicular self-examination.
 - c) Explain the procedures for self testicular examinations.
 - d) Teach individuals how to perform a testicular self examination.

C) Treatment

- 1) **General**
 - a) Access cancer treatment information specific to cancer location and type.
 - b) Describe the available cancer treatment modalities.
 - c) Identify clinical findings that may represent clinical emergencies.
 - d) Describe options to manage disease and treatment-related symptoms.
 - e) Manage disease and treatment related symptoms.
 - f) Refer for treatment of disease and treatment-related symptoms.
 - g) Provide emotional support to patients.
 - h) Refer for mental health services.

D) Survivorship

- 1) **General**
 - a) Define cancer survivorship.
 - b) Assess that resources for cancer services and insurance coverage are consistent with current recommendation.
 - c) Assist patients and families in navigating the health care system following cancer treatment.
 - d) Guide patients with cancer and their families toward support systems and groups.
 - e) Provide ongoing health services that meet age and gender recommendations.
 - f) Recognize the importance of survivorship in a long term cancer care plan at the conclusion of active treatment.
 - g) Manage continuing and late effects of cancer and cancer treatment.

- h) Describe the surveillance recommendations for the detection of recurrence and second primary cancers.
- i) Refer patients to resources for the detection of recurrence and second primary cancers.
- j) Refer survivors to rehabilitation services.
- k) Provide support for cancer survivors and their families and caregivers as they cope with daily living, including lifestyle, employment, school, sexual relationships, fertility issues, and personal intimacy.
- l) Advocate for pain and symptom management throughout the course of survivorship.

E) Palliative and End of Life care

- 1) **General**
 - a) Define palliative and end of life care.
 - b) Assess that resources for palliative and end of life care and insurance coverage are consistent with current recommendations.
 - c) Refer patients to community palliative and end of life care and support resources.
 - d) Explain the role of hospice care.
 - e) Manage symptoms of the cancer patient.
 - f) Incorporate end of life comfort strategies for the dying cancer patient.
- 2) **Pain management**
 - a) Explain how cancer pain differs from other types of pain.
 - b) Describe the methods used to diagnosis cancer pain throughout the progression of the disease.
 - c) Differentiate between acute and chronic pain symptoms.
 - d) Describe the characteristics used to assess cancer pain: frequency, intensity, and site.
 - e) Perform a cancer pain assessment.
 - f) Explain the different treatment options for cancer pain.
 - g) Perform a pain-related history taken during a physical examination.
 - h) Manage cancer-related pain and analgesic side effects.

Domain II: Basic Cancer Science

Within the context of the professional discipline and scope of practice, a health care professional should be able function in the following competency areas:

- A) Incorporate general cancer knowledge into their professional practice.**
 - 1) Implement ways to keep cancer knowledge current.
 - a) Review the literature for new information regarding screening techniques.
 - b) Participate in professional cancer education opportunities.
- B) Describe the biologic attributes of cancer etiology.**
 - 1) Distinguish cancer facts from cancer myths.
 - 2) Explain the relationship between cancer and genetics.
 - 3) Explain the immunologic response to cancer and its treatment.

C) Reference the cancer epidemiology and risk factor data for individuals and specific communities.

- 1) Access cancer epidemiologic data for specific communities.
- 2) Describe the utility of cancer clinical data and cancer population-based data including those collected through cancer and tumor registries.
- 3) Apply epidemiological principles of sensitivity and specificity to cancer screening recommendations.

D) Discuss complementary and alternative therapies

- 1) Assess patient and family beliefs regarding complementary and alternative therapies.
- 2) Explain the role of complementary and alternative therapies in cancer treatment.
- 3) Refer the patient, family, and care givers to licensed complementary therapists and alternative medicine practitioners and information sources.
- 4) Describe the potential side effects and possible interactions among complementary therapies, alternative medicine, and other prescribed treatments.

E) Support participation in clinical trials.

- 1) Define a cancer clinical trial.
- 2) Describe the clinical trial process beginning with informed consent.
- 3) Describe the oncology specific rationale for community-based clinical trials.
- 4) Adhere to a clinical trial protocol.
- 5) Assist patient in adhering to clinical trial protocol.

F) Adhere to the data collection standards in reporting cancer cases to hospital, state, and national tumor surveillance registries.

- 1) Define the purpose and requirements of cancer registries.
- 2) Describe the role of tumor surveillance registries.
- 3) Describe the importance of complete, accurate, and timely data collection in cancer tumor registries.
- 4) Interpret cancer data using basic epidemiologic principles.
- 5) Categorize cancer incidence by age, gender, ethnicity, and geography.
- 6) Categorize cancer mortality rates by age, gender, ethnicity, and geography.

Domain III: Collaboration and Communication

Within the context of the professional discipline and scope of practice, a health care professional should be able function in the following competency areas:

A) Participate within an inter-disciplinary cancer care team.

- 1) Define inter-disciplinary care.
- 2) Describe the contribution of each professional perspective in the development of a cancer care plan.
- 3) Consider the financial implications for recommended cancer care.
 - a) Refer patients to an oncology social worker for financial guidance and resource navigation.
 - b) Consider the resource challenges of the agency in implementing a treatment plan.

B) Incorporate psychosocial communication strategies in conveying cancer information.

- 1) Refer patients to mental health, psychosocial, and support services.
 - a) Recognize the signs and symptoms of cancer related depression and anxiety.
 - b) Explain the management of depression and anxiety in patients with cancer.
 - c) Explain the useful coping mechanisms following a cancer diagnosis.

C) Incorporate cross-cultural communication strategies in conveying cancer information.

- 1) Identify cultural sub-groups in a given patient population.
- 2) Define culture-specific beliefs and practices.
- 3) Communicate cancer care information that is sensitive to religious and spiritual beliefs and practices.

D) Describe common ethical and legal issues in cancer care.

- 1) Adhere to HIPAA policies, procedures, and regulations.
- 2) Access institutional and other ethics resources.
- 3) Advocate for the use of advanced directives, including the right to refuse care.
- 4) Justify the need for informed consent in cancer research.

E) Incorporate communication strategies that encourage the process of grieving.

- 1) Consider personal death awareness and cumulative loss as it applies to the practice of oncology.
- 2) Assist oncology team members with the coping strategies over the death of patients with cancer.
- 3) Develop a roster of coping resources for assisting family and other cancer care providers.
- 4) Suggest resources that help professionals cope with the death of patients with cancer.