

POSITION SUMMARY

Oncology Nursing Society Position on the Role of the Oncology Nurse in Cancer Genetic Counseling

The identification of genes that, when mutated, are associated with cancer development has transformed cancer detection and cancer management. Genetics, which focuses on individual heredity, and genomics, which refers to interaction among genes, are the fields of study driving this transformation. Genetic and genomic information now can be used to describe the biology of disease, characterize malignancies, develop new therapeutic modalities, and identify individuals at increased risk for developing cancer.

It is the position of the Oncology Nursing Society that oncology nurses in all settings have a role in educating patients, families, and the public about cancer-related genetics and genomics.

This includes

- Genetic risk counseling for patients from advanced practice nurses with specialized education
- Integrating genomic information into relevant nursing education curriculum
- Creating relationships between healthcare providers and specialty organizations with a focus on genetics
- Evaluating the ethical, legal, and social implications of genetic and genomic technology.

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