

POSITION SUMMARY

Oncology Nursing Society Position on Cancer Pain Management

Pain is a common symptom experienced by patients with cancer that causes significant physical and psychosocial burdens. Although pain markedly impacts the quality of a patient's life, it frequently is assessed and treated inadequately. Because oncology nurses embrace holistic care and have sustained contact with patients throughout the continuum of cancer care, they are in a position to identify undertreated and untreated cancer pain and advocate for its relief.

It is the position of the Oncology Nursing Society that all patients with cancer receive optimal pain relief.

This includes

- Accountability of healthcare professionals to effectively manage cancer pain and implement evidence-based pain management guidelines
- Recognition of all patients with pain, especially those at high risk for suboptimal pain management
- Education and involvement of patients, family caregivers, and significant others in the development of a pain management plan of care.

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