

POSITION SUMMARY

Oncology Nursing Society Position on Education of the RN Who Administers and Cares for the Individual Receiving Chemotherapy and Biotherapy

Specialized education and preparation of RNs who administer chemotherapy and biotherapy can ensure safe care for patients receiving these agents. The Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) offers courses and books that describe the basic clinical content necessary to provide didactic information regarding the safe and competent administration of cytotoxic and biologic drugs. RNs should know this information and successfully complete a clinical practicum before administering chemotherapy and biotherapy.

It is the position of ONS that RNs administering chemotherapy and biotherapy receive an education with current and evidence-based content.

This includes

- Principles and types and classifications of chemotherapy and biotherapy
- Principles of safe preparation, storage, labeling, and disposal of chemotherapeutic and biologic agents and proper use of personal protective equipment
- Administration procedures and post-treatment care.

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