

## POSITION SUMMARY

# Oncology Nursing Society and Association of Oncology Social Work Joint Position on End-of-Life Care

Too many patients die in settings that do not support an optimal death experience. Technical advances in health care have, in some cases, prolonged suffering. A proactive and integrated approach to palliative and end-of-life care will improve quality of life across the care continuum.

It is the position of the Oncology Nursing Society that all patients receive timely and appropriate palliative care across the illness trajectory.

This includes

- Assistance for patients and families so they can make educated decisions that are upheld by healthcare providers
- Comprehensive measurement and documentation of physical and psychosocial symptoms
- An interdisciplinary team that values shared decision making and is informed on the values and preferences of patients and families
- Integrated care systems that incorporate palliative care principles and provide timely and appropriate care to patients and families
- Skilled advocacy that focuses on equal and affordable access to end-of-life care.

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