

POSITION SUMMARY

Oncology Nursing Society Position on Ensuring High-Quality Cancer Care in the Medicare Program

With cancer becoming the United States's leading cause of death and most new cancer diagnoses occurring among those aged 65 and older, the Medicare program plays an integral role in the delivery and coverage of cancer care. A growing population in need, a shrinking cancer care workforce, and an insufficient scope of benefits and services coverage combine to pose a potential cancer care crisis.

It is the position of the Oncology Nursing Society that Medicare provide coverage and sufficient reimbursement of the full range of cancer-related care, including services provided by oncology nurses.

This includes

- Timely access to a coordinated team of multidisciplinary oncology specialists when cancer is suspected or diagnosed
- Reimbursement and access to the full range of benefits and services provided in the context of the delivery of multidisciplinary cancer care
- Assurance that payment policies do not interfere with or have an adverse effect on treatment decisions, access to care, or quality of care.

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