

POSITION SUMMARY

Oncology Nursing Society Position on Oncology Services in the Ambulatory Practice Setting

Economic, technologic, and social forces have combined to create an environment in which increasingly complex cancer therapies are administered in the ambulatory outpatient care setting. New roles, responsibilities, and challenges for oncology nurses have evolved accordingly. Although some standards for oncology nursing practice can be applied to the ambulatory practice setting, additional guidelines that take into account issues specific to ambulatory care are necessary.

It is the position of the Oncology Nursing Society that cancer care recommendations and guidelines for ambulatory practice consider its unique setting.

This includes

- Safe-care provided by RNs with oncology certification
- Patients and caregivers receiving verbal and written self-care instructions, information about the risk, benefits and financial implications of treatments, and access to resources to prevent and manage side effects
- Nurses following written guidelines and policies when administering chemotherapy, biotherapy, and conscious sedation.

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