

## POSITION SUMMARY

# Oncology Nursing Society Position on Prevention and Early Detection of Cancer in the United States

Cancer, a major public health problem in the United States, may be prevented by adopting a healthy lifestyle and avoiding mutagens and carcinogens. Primary (health promotion and risk reduction), secondary (cancer screening and early detection), and tertiary (prevention and early detection of second primary cancers) prevention can increase treatment options and reduce cancer incidence. Oncology nurses are well positioned to develop, implement, and evaluate measures to ensure that individuals and families have access to education about cancer prevention.

It is the position of the Oncology Nursing Society that individuals have access to and are educated about prevention and early detection programs.

This includes

- Educating oncology nurses in behavioral, biologic, educational, and economic principles of cancer prevention and early detection
- Oncology nurses providing education to the general public and helping facilitate client decision making about participation in cancer prevention and controlled clinical trials
- Age-appropriate cancer screening for new cancers for cancer survivors
- Fully informing individuals of their options for managing personal risks for developing cancer and the limitations, benefits, and risks of each strategy.

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