

POSITION SUMMARY

Oncology Nursing Society Position on the Role of the Advanced Practice Nurse in Oncology Care

Advanced practice oncology nurses provide leadership to improve outcomes for patients with cancer and their families by increasing healthcare access, promoting clinical excellence, improving patients' quality of life, documenting patient outcomes, and increasing the cost-effectiveness of care. Research has substantiated the positive impact of advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs); significant outcomes include improved patient satisfaction, fewer hospital admissions, and decreased lengths of stay.

It is the position of the Oncology Nursing Society that APRNs in oncology nursing are clinical nurse specialists and/or nurse practitioners prepared at the graduate level who are specialized in oncology practice, have additional responsibilities, and are recognized in state statutes and regulations.

This includes

- Authorization to work independently or in collaboration with a designated physician partnership and to prescribe medication
- Full choice of healthcare providers for consumers and reimbursement for care provided by APRNs
- Integration of APRNs into all aspects of cancer care and health policy reform.

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