

POSITION SUMMARY

Oncology Nursing Society Position on Nursing Leadership in Global and Domestic Tobacco Control

Tobacco, a known human carcinogen, continues to be the leading cause of preventable death and illness in the United States. Prevention of tobacco-related disease, disability, and death could be achieved by promoting tobacco control. Oncology nurses, through involvement in community action, helping patients quit, promoting an environment free of tobacco smoke, and research, are in a position to help solve the tobacco problem.

It is the position of the Oncology Nursing Society that the tobacco epidemic is controlled through the active participation of nurses, advocacy, treatment, public and professional education, and research.

This includes

- Restricting promotion, increasing the price, and strengthening the warning labels of tobacco products
- Ensuring that tobacco assessment and dependence treatment is an expected part of care in all cancer treatment programs
- Ongoing federal support for public media campaigns about tobacco prevention and treatment
- Education for practicing and student nurses on the health effects of tobacco use and tobacco control interventions
- Nursing research on tobacco use, prevention, cessation interventions, and reduction of exposure to second-hand smoke
- Nurses serving as tobacco-free role models.

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