



Canadian
Association of
Nurses in
Oncology

Association
canadienne des
infirmières en
oncologie

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Canadian Association of Nurses in Oncology Develop National Chemotherapy Administration Standards

TORONTO, Ontario (Tuesday, March 24, 2009)—Cancer patients across Canada receive chemotherapy treatment and care by oncology nurses in diverse clinical settings such as cancer centers, general hospitals, and independent, ambulatory, urban or rural clinics. A recent review reveals wide variation in practice standards and educational programs to support oncology nurses to safely and effectively administer chemotherapy and care for patients during their chemotherapy experience.

To commemorate Oncology Nursing Day on April 7th, 2009 the Canadian Association of Nurses in Oncology (CANO/ACIO) will release the executive report of its National Chemotherapy Administration Initiative, Phase One. Through the National Chemotherapy Administration Initiative, CANO/ACIO will develop national chemotherapy administration practice standards and educational resources for oncology nurses that will, in turn, benefit patients throughout the country, regardless of the setting in which they receive their chemotherapy.

“Canadian oncology nurses are eager to develop national standards of practice in chemotherapy administration so that patient care for Canadians continues to improve,” says Kim Chapman, President of CANO/ACIO, “National chemotherapy administration standards are key to improving patient care within the context of varying levels and diversity of health care resources in Canada.”

“The vision for this project is to ensure that any Canadian receiving chemotherapy will interface with a nurse that is aware of and meets a pre-determined practice standard. Our membership has indicated that national standards of practice are important to them and to the people they care for. We are so proud to be embarking on this very ambitious initiative.” says Jennifer Wiernikowski, Vice President of CANO/ACIO. This national strategy is a major undertaking that will take place over the course of the next five years.

In this first phase, CANO/ACIO reviewed national and international practices, noting that professional oncology nursing associations in the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia have published and endorsed standards for chemotherapy practice and education.

In addition to the release of this report, on April 7, 2009, CANO/ACIO plans activities celebrating Oncology Nursing Day throughout Canada. Events include mayoral declarations, educational sessions for patients and nurses and cancer screenings. For a full listing of events go to: http://www.cano-acio.ca/en/oncology_nursing_day_2009/events.html.

A full copy of the Chemotherapy Administration, Phase One Interim Report, click: http://www.cano-acio.ca/en/national_chemotherapy_standards/index.html.

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About CANO/ACIO

Established in 1984, the Canadian Association of Nurses in Oncology/Association canadienne des infirmières en oncologie (CANO/ACIO) is the national organization that supports Canadian nurses to promote and develop excellence in oncology nursing practice, education, research and leadership. CANO's mission is to lead nursing excellence in cancer control for Canadians, with a vision of being an international nursing leader in cancer control.

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CANO/ACIO believes that:

- Every nurse is a leader
- Canadians deserve specialized oncology nurses
- Evidence-based care is the foundation for excellence in nursing
- The specialty of oncology nursing is an essential component of health care services across the cancer continuum
- Collaborative relationships further the health, well-being and quality of life for Canadians
- Ongoing learning is essential for the professional and personal development of oncology nurses

CANO/ACIO is committed to supporting its members and all nurses who care for people with cancer and their families.