

MONDAY 22 OCTOBER 2001

*Integrated care in oncology nursing practice***Teaching Lecture**

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Organising oncology nursing care todayE. Maassen. *Catharina Hospital, Multi-Disciplinaire Oncology, Eindhoven, The Netherlands*

Though we live in an era in which we spend more money on healthcare than ever before, care becomes too expensive. 'Double ageing' and the costs of new diagnosis and treatment options lean heavily on the reserved budget. Everyday an appeal is made to the adaptability and organisational skills of healthcare workers to improve efficiency and at least maintain the quality of care. Many developments within our profession are a direct reaction on changes in both society and politics. This is not a new phenomenon. It is one of all times and therefore one of the future.

Organising oncology care demands a pro-active role of the nurse. In our process to professionalise, there is a growing awareness for the possibilities to influence both society and politics. Long-term investments towards we still feel slightly awkward.

On the other hand, for changes on short terms we have to look critical to the way we have organised our back office. This is not only a responsibility of the management but of the bedside nurse as well. This lecture will look into questions as: where do we leave opportunities unused? What could we accomplish if we follow our own advice towards self-care and self-control? Provided we dare to be self-critical, open-minded and willing to collaborate, pro-active initiatives allow us to reinvest in ourselves and eventually in the quality of care for the oncology patient.

Proffered Papers**Managing evidence based practice**

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Developing, delivering and evaluating cancer nursing services: building the evidence base

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Introduction: Cancer nurses are central in the provision of cancer care with roles encompassing health promotion, screening, acute and palliative care. Consequently, it is critical that the input of nursing across the spectrum of cancer care and sources of evidence concerning the clinical effectiveness of cancer nurses and cancer nursing are evaluated. The Research and Development Directorate at the Department of Health in England has funded a project to evaluate cancer nursing services.

Study: Three simultaneous, complementary methods have been used to conduct this evaluation.

1. An extensive literature review, spanning the last 20 years, identified published research regarding the development, delivery and evaluation of cancer nurses and nursing

2. A survey questionnaire to Lead Cancer Nurses identified strategic and operational issues that relate to cancer nursing and innovative practice

3. Access to national and regional research directories and UK Universities facilitated the compilation of a Research Directory of recently completed and ongoing cancer nursing research

Results: Cancer nursing has grown as a speciality in its own right and in relation to its input across all spectrums of cancer care over the last 20 years. However, significant gaps in both previous and current research continues to hamper the organisation of cancer nursing services and there is an urgent need to strengthen links between research and practice. Ex-

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amples will be given of established programmes of research, areas where further development is required and innovative cancer nursing practice.

Conclusion: Turning the spotlight on cancer nursing has been beneficial in establishing its progress to date. Such national projects are essential in synthesising the existing evidence on which to base cancer nursing, identifying gaps in research evidence for practice and in order to make recommendations that will ensure that the progress of the past continues in the future.

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How to guarantee evidence based practise for oncology nurses?

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In 1997 a project has started with the purpose to design nursing research in a University Hospital, with the intention to support nursing care with scientific evidence. The following goals were defined: a) facilitating, structuring, prioritising and coordinating nursing research and their related developments for oncology patients, b) implementation of research results in daily practise en nursing education. The project has been performed in cooperation with the University Hospital (Medical Center), the department of Nursing Science (KUN), the department of Nursing Education (HAN), the Integrated Cancer Center (IKO) and the management/nurses of four Internal Oncology units (Medical Oncology, Hematology, Lungdiseases and the Out-patient clinic). To define relevant issues for nursing research a study was conducted in the four before mentioned units to establish relevant nursing aspects. As a result of the project four themes could be defined; nausea and vomiting as a result of chemotherapy, stomatitis as a result of chemotherapy, psycho-social issues for cancer patients and palliative care for cancer patients. Further a model (SRUM = Stetter Research Utilization Model) was selected for validation, use and, implementation of nursing research results in practise. The project was finished in september 2000. To continue the project, objectives

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