Building Capacity for Oncology Nursing Education and Training in Low- and Middle-Income Countries

A Call to Action

Makeda Williams, PhD, MPH, CHES

Abstract code: 17344

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared
•Nurses in LMICs:
  • comprise 60-80% of the healthcare workforce
  • Deliver 70% of all healthcare services
  • Generally receive limited preparation to care for patients with cancer

•Call to Action:
  • To focus attention and resources on need to strengthen cancer nursing workforce in LMICs
Key Stakeholder Group

Led by Center for Global Health at the U.S. NCI

King Hussein Cancer Center, Jordan
Colombian Association of Cancer Nursing, Colombia
Inshuti Mu Buzima, Rwanda
American Society for Clinical Oncology
Partners in Health, USA
International Network for Cancer Treatment and Research, Belgium
International Society of Nurses in Cancer Care (ISNCC), Canada
St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, USA
Boston Children’s Hospital, USA
Oncology Nursing Society, USA
Union for International Cancer Control (UICC), Switzerland
The Chinese University of Hong Kong, China
EMBLEM Project, Eldoret, Kenya
Recommendations

Policy

Provide financial resources to fund oncology nursing education programs and to provide adequate compensation for nurses.

Ensure that nursing’s legal scope of practice is consistent with the full extent of the nurses’ education, role, and responsibilities.

Address oncology nurse education as a critical component of health workforce development.

Promote inclusion of nurses with oncology expertise to positions of authority in the government.

Makeda Williams, PhD, CHES
**Recommendations**

**Education**

Incorporate **basic cancer content** into pre-service nursing training curricula

Develop or adapt curricula for **specialized oncology nursing education** to offer diploma, certificate, and/or Master’s as well as continuing education for in-service nurses

Develop **nursing faculty**

Ensure oncology nursing training **program sustainability**

Require organizations to **follow best practices** for planning, implementing and evaluating programs and for reporting and publish on outcomes.
Recommendations

Practice
Increase the number of oncology-trained nurses to ensure a nurse-to-patient ratio

Provide nurses with appropriate personal protective equipment, supplies, and medications

Ensure that preparing and mixing chemotherapy is within the scope of practice for pharmacists and/or pharmacy technicians.

Assist nurses in LMICs to develop regional and national oncology nursing associations to

- promote specialization
- raise awareness
- highlight the need for appropriate recognition and compensation
Recommendations

Research

Develop priorities for oncology nursing research that
• informs policy
• strengthens the nursing knowledge base
• and advances evidence-based practice
Next Steps
Led by International Society of Nurses in Cancer Care
Form Task Force
Finalize recommendations
Obtain signatories
Finalize action plan for dissemination
Secure resources for implementation