

Accepted for Podium Presentation

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Title: The Journey from a Novice Oncology Nurse Practitioner to Advanced Oncology Certified Nurse Practitioner (AOCNP®) Through a Year Long Nationally Accredited Oncology Transition to Practice Fellowship Program

Objective: Describe the yearlong transition to practice fellowship. The end result being the expectation of sitting for the AOCNP® exam.

Significance: As more people are being diagnosed with cancer, the demands on oncologists continue to increase. The changing health care landscape and access to care issues have created an opportunity for increased utilization of the Advanced Practice Provider (APP). The Transition to Practice Fellowship was created to provide specialty onboarding for the complex care needs of oncology patients. The care of oncology patients goes beyond introductory primary care taught in school. Over approximately 52 weeks, 2,080 hours, the novice nurse practitioner transitions to a competent oncology provider.

Purpose: Detail how the Oncology Nurse Practitioner (NP) transitions from primary nurse practitioner to advanced oncology certified nurse practitioner.

Intervention: The Transition to Practice Fellowship was created to provide specialty onboarding for the complex care needs of oncology patients. The fellowship covers the continuum of cancer care; prevention, early detection, active treatment, survivorship, and end-of-life care. Participants develop core knowledge that enables them to practice independently in any oncology setting with the opportunity to pursue disease-specific areas of focus. All participants rotate through three major rotations; surgical oncology, medical oncology, and hematology, with shorter rotations in survivorship, radiation oncology, oncologic emergencies, infection, pain, and palliative care. The APP fellows also complete the online ONS course *Post-Master's Foundation in Cancer Care*. This course, with their didactic and clinical work, gives them the specialized knowledge and skills of an advanced oncology certified nurse practitioner. Participants are expected to sit for the AOCNP® certification exam to prove their specialized knowledge and expertise.

Discussion: As oncology care is becoming more complex, increased quality at less cost can be achieved through the use of the nurse practitioner. The APP Oncology Fellowship provides specialty onboarding for the complex needs of oncology patients. At the end of this year-long fellowship, participants have developed specialized knowledge important to the advanced practice role in oncology nursing. By passing the AOCNP® exam, the nurse practitioner assures not only their employers of their oncology care skill set, but also their fellow providers, patients and families.