

**APHON**

ASSOCIATION *of* PEDIATRIC  
HEMATOLOGY/ONCOLOGY NURSES

# Scope and Standards

OF PEDIATRIC HEMATOLOGY/ONCOLOGY NURSING PRACTICE

SAMPLE

## **Editors**

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SAMPLE

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## PREFACE

A specialty nursing organization is responsible for establishing, maintaining, evaluating, and revising standards of nursing practice that are relevant to the population its nurses serve. For the Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses (APHON), members are dedicated to promoting optimal nursing care for children, adolescents, and families battling cancer and blood disorders. For the purpose of this document, the word *child* is used to describe any child or adolescent from birth to 21 years of age. When the word *adolescent* is used, it includes children from 12 to 21 years of age, and *adolescent and young adult (AYA)* refers to those approximately 16 to 30 years of age.

Nursing standards define what a nurse does to provide competent nursing care. In 1978, the Association of Pediatric Oncology Nurses (APON) developed *Standards of Nursing Practice* for pediatric oncology nurses. These standards were revised in 1987 to reflect both nursing process and outcome standards, including statements on the scope of practice (Bru et al., 1987). To address continuing changes in pediatric cancer care, the nursing standards document has been periodically updated. *Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice* is a revision and a blending of two documents: *Scope and Standards of Pediatric Hematology Nursing Practice* (2009) and *Scope and Standards of Pediatric Oncology Nursing Practice* (2007). It incorporates key aspects of previously published standards from the following organizations: the American Nurses Association (1996, 1998, 2005, 2010), the Society of Pediatric Nursing (1998, 2003, 2008), and the Oncology Nursing Society (1996, 1997, 2003, 2004, 2013). *Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice* reflects ongoing changes in nursing practice and describes and defines the role of the professional pediatric hematology/oncology registered nurse and the pediatric hematology/oncology advanced practice registered nurse (APRN).

This document provides

- a definition of the pediatric hematology/oncology nurse, a description of professional nursing activities, and the expected outcomes of care for the child and family
- a definition of the pediatric hematology/oncology APRN, a description of professional advanced practice nursing activities, and the expected outcomes of care for the child and family
- standards of practice and professional performance for the pediatric hematology/oncology nurse and the pediatric hematology/oncology APRN
- descriptions of competencies in the conduct of professional nursing practice.

## 7. End-of-life care

- a. Child and family's understanding of the dying process and the goals of care
- b. Cultural, religious, and spiritual traditions at the end of life
- c. Impact of impending loss on the patient, parents, siblings, and other family members
- d. Understanding of child and family's decisions regarding end-of-life care
- e. Family's wishes to remain in the hospital versus transition to home or hospice care

## 8. Prevention and early detection

- a. Identification of risk factors and warning signs and symptoms for new or recurring cancers or blood disorders
- b. Understanding the benefits of health screening, including newborn screening, genetic testing, and screening for late effects or second malignancies
- c. Promoting the benefits of prophylactic therapies in cancer and blood disorders
- d. Understanding and promoting healthy lifestyle behaviors

### **Additional Measurement Criteria for the Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN)**

The pediatric hematology/oncology APRN utilizes evidence-based guidelines to guide assessment.

- A. Obtains a comprehensive health history utilizing assessment data related to the following:
  1. Physical health
  2. Growth and development
  3. Patient and family's educational level and knowledge of diagnosis, treatment, potential side effects, and resources, including
    - a. Adherence to prescribed medication regimen
    - b. Patient and family beliefs about and use of complementary and alternative medicine
    - c. Psychosocial health
    - d. Need for transition to adult health care, lifetime health promotion, prevention and early detection, late effects and survivorship, palliative care, and end-of-life care
  - e. In addition, the pediatric hematology/oncology APRN performs a comprehensive physical examination, and orders, and interprets diagnostic tests and procedures.

## **Standard 2. Diagnosis**

The pediatric hematology/oncology nurse uses assessment data from nursing and other disciplines to determine appropriate nursing diagnoses.

### **Rationale**

Nursing diagnoses help the pediatric hematology/oncology nurse identify problems and determine the appropriate interventions, including expected outcomes, plan, and evaluation.

### **Measurement Criteria**

The pediatric hematology/oncology nurse

- A. Determines actual or potential nursing diagnoses from assessment data
- B. Develops nursing diagnoses that are developmentally and age appropriate, as well as culturally relevant
- C. Ensures that nursing diagnoses address physical care, growth and development, education, psychosocial care, long-term survival and adaptation to survivorship or chronic illness, palliative care, end-of-life care, and prevention and early detection as appropriate
- D. Communicates with the child, family, and other members of the healthcare team to validate and prioritize nursing diagnoses
- E. Documents nursing diagnoses in the child's medical record to facilitate the communication and determination of expected outcomes and plan of care.

### **Additional Measurement Criteria for the Pediatric Hematology/Oncology APRN**

The pediatric hematology/oncology APRN

- A. Uses advanced knowledge and clinical skills to interpret information obtained during assessment to identify actual and potential diagnoses
- B. Utilizes critical thinking in the synthesis of information from multiple evidence-based practice sources including best available research, clinical practice guidelines, patient preference, and clinical expertise
- C. Assists and mentors staff in developing and maintaining competency in the diagnostic process.

## **Standard 3. Outcomes Identification**

The pediatric hematology/oncology nurse identifies expected outcomes specific to the child and family.

### **Rationale**

The identification of expected outcomes allows the pediatric hematology/oncology nurse to work with the child and family to meet the mutual goals of care. The expected outcomes include adequate education, optimal growth and development, optimal physical and emotional health, minimal symptom distress, prevention of toxicity or chronic complications, and early detection and screening for cancer recurrence or second malignancies.

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