Objectives: To determine the educational needs of inpatient oncology nurses in terms of providing psychosocial care to patients and to determine the barriers that inpatient nurses experience when providing psychosocial care. Twenty-six inpatient oncology RNs participated in an online survey that assessed barriers to psychosocial care as well as educational needs. Nurses identified that time, lack of patient privacy, nurses’ emotional energy, confusion about clinical guidelines, lack of experience with screening tools, not knowing how to approach sensitive topics, and poor communication between team members undermine psychosocial care. Inpatient nurses need additional training to provide excellent psychosocial care.

Methods: An online survey was conducted from January to March 2013.

Results: Nurses identified that time, lack of patient privacy, nurses’ emotional energy, confusion about clinical guidelines, lack of experience with screening tools, not knowing how to approach sensitive topics, and poor communication between team members undermine psychosocial care. Inpatient nurses need additional training to provide excellent psychosocial care.

Conclusions: Inpatient nurses need additional training to provide excellent psychosocial care. The educational needs of inpatient oncology nurses in terms of providing psychosocial care were determined. The barriers that inpatient nurses experience when providing psychosocial care were also identified. This information can be used to design educational programs for nurses. The results of this study can be used to design educational programs for nurses to improve their psychosocial care skills.