Reseach has demonstrated that an important relationship exists between a cancer diagnosis and an individual’s spiritual well-being. Studies have confirmed that a diagnosis of cancer may affect an individual’s spiritual well-being seriously (Buchanan, 1988; Feher & Maly, 1999; Fehring, Miller, & Shaw, 1997). In turn, spiritual well-being has been correlated positively with the individual’s religiosity of patients with cancer—the living of a person’s religious faith for the sake of the faith itself (Fehring et al.; Mickley, Soeken, & Belcher, 1992). Because spiritual considerations play such an important part in the lives of patients with cancer, oncology nurses who are concerned with the whole person have a crucial role to perform. Therefore, exploring attributes that influence the provision of spiritual care is important.

Research studies have focused on nurses’ assessment of the significance of spiritual care. Nurses who believed in the importance of spiritual care were much more likely to assess the religious beliefs of their patients and write care plans that incorporate spiritual care (Scott, Grzybowski, & Webb, 1994). In addition, nurses who had increased levels of spiritual well-being were more comfortable with and had more positive attitudes toward spiritual care (Cimino, 1992; Harris, 1994; Vance, 2001). The age of the nurse (Boutell & Bozett, 1987; Taylor, Amenta, & Highfield, 1995), ethnicity (Taylor et al., 1995; Taylor, Highfield, & Amenta, 1994), and nursing education (Kuuppelomaki, 2001; Taylor et al., 1994, 1995) also were related to nurses’ attitudes toward spiritual care.

Studies have reported high levels of spirituality among hospice nurses and a positive correlation between hospice and oncology nurses’ spirituality and their attitudes toward spiritual care (Taylor & Amenta, 1994; Taylor et al., 1995). Despite this, the body of nursing knowledge related to oncology nurses’ spiritual well-being, their religiosity, and the variables that impinge on their spiritual well-being needs to be expanded. As alluded to previously, research has demonstrated an important link between spiritual well-being and religiosity (Fehring et al., 1997; Genia, 1996; Mickley et al., 1992). In addition, research has demonstrated that an individual’s religiosity may be influenced by personal characteristics of age (Thorson & Powell, 1990), ethnicity...