

# Results of an Oncology Clinical Trial Nurse Role Delineation Study

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Purdom and Haas provided the analysis. Purdom completed the data collection and provided statistical support. All authors contributed to the conceptualization and design and the manuscript preparation.

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**Purpose/Objectives:** To evaluate the relevance of a five-dimensional model of clinical trial nursing practice in an oncology clinical trial nurse population.

**Design:** Web-based cross-sectional survey.

**Setting:** Online via Qualtrics.

**Sample:** 167 oncology nurses throughout the United States, including 41 study coordinators, 35 direct care providers, and 91 dual-role nurses who provide direct patient care and trial coordination.

**Methods:** Principal components analysis was used to determine the dimensions of oncology clinical trial nursing practice.

**Main Research Variables:** Self-reported frequency of 59 activities.

**Findings:** The results did not support the original five-dimensional model of nursing care but revealed a more multidimensional model.

**Conclusions:** An analysis of frequency data revealed an eight-dimensional model of oncology research nursing, including care, manage study, expert, lead, prepare, data, advance science, and ethics.

**Implications for Nursing:** This evidence-based model expands understanding of the multidimensional roles of oncology nurses caring for patients with cancer enrolled in clinical trials.

The specialty practice of clinical trial nursing was recently recognized by the American Nurses Association (International Association of Clinical Research Nurses [IACRN], 2016). With this recognition came a five-year acknowledgement of clinical trial nurses' (CTNs') scope and standards of practice (American Nurses Association & IACRN, 2016). Nomenclature for clinical trial nursing is confusing, and precisely what CTNs do on a day-to-day basis is unclear based on the role title alone. Two nursing roles have been described in the literature—the CTN and the research nurse coordinator. When compared, CTNs were found to perform higher levels of clinical practice than research nurse coordinators (Bevans et al., 2011). The CTN's role is the provision of direct patient care to study participants, and the research nurse coordinator's nursing activities were more frequently related to a specific study or principal investigator (Bevans et al., 2011). Although the American Nurses Association stated that CTNs make important contributions to the research process and have specialized training in nursing care—research regulations, scientific processes, participation protection, data collection, analysis, and interpretation (IACRN, 2016)—many questions about their roles and responsibilities remain. This recognition reveals how nurses contribute