It Is the Position of ONS That

• Every patient with cancer has access to psychosocial health services.
• Psychosocial assessment is a standard component of cancer care.
• Oncology healthcare providers identify each patient’s psychosocial needs, design and implement a plan that links the patient with needed psychosocial services, engage and support the patient in this plan, and systematically monitor, document, and revise the patient’s psychosocial plan of care.
• Oncology nurses, advocacy organizations, and others inform patients that they should expect, and request when necessary, cancer care that includes a range of psychosocial services such as counseling, education, self-care programs, and support groups.
• Oncology nurses incorporate existing evidence-based psychosocial resources into practice, such as those that are available from the Oncology Nursing Society and other nursing and healthcare organizations.
• Health plans adequately support and pay for evidence-based psychosocial services for patients with cancer.
• Researchers develop standardized, easy-to-use psychosocial assessment tools and conduct demonstration and evaluation projects of psychosocial interventions and delivery approaches.
• Federal, state, local, and institutional funding is provided to support research focused on the development of performance measures for psychosocial care.
• Standard-setting organizations create oversight mechanisms to ensure that psychosocial services are being delivered to patients with cancer, especially in ambulatory care.
• Institutions, agencies, and organizations monitor and report progress toward improved delivery of psychosocial services in cancer care.

References


Approved by the ONS Board of Directors 3/08.