



**College of Cancer Nurses, NZNO
Monthly news bulletin
Friday, 25 September 2020**

Consultation

NZNO regularly seeks members input on a range of documents up for consultation. The listing is regularly updated and full information [can be found here](#).

Primary Maternity Services Notice Review 2021 – Health Professionals

NZNO warmly invites your feedback on Ministry of Health's (MoH) proposed changes to the Primary Maternity Services Notice.

The changes are being made to increase the flexibility of community maternity services to better meet the varied needs of women and their whanau. Structural and administrative changes to the Notice are proposed. MoH also want to know our thoughts on the future of maternity services in Aotearoa, New Zealand.

New Zealand news

Green Light Given For Life-saving Cancer Treatment

New Zealand patients with neuroendocrine cancers (NETs) who have been unable to access regular treatment in Australia, due to COVID-19 will now be treated in Auckland thanks to an interim arrangement. [Read more](#)

Bowel cancer

Bowel cancer screening age won't be dropped for Māori and Pacific NZers, despite expert advice

Māori and Pacific NZers won't get bowel cancer screening from 50, because of pressure on colonoscopy services, and despite the ministry's own expert advisory groups wanting the change. [Read more](#)

Bowel screening programme finish date delayed due to COVID-19

Britt Chambers died of bowel cancer in March after being turned away for colonoscopy for six years prior to her diagnosis.

Now there are concerns others might also at risk due to delays in rolling out national screening. [Read more](#)

Brain cancer

Making brain cancers in children respond better to treatment

Research has identified a small molecule compound that can activate the Wnt pathway in non-Wnt subtypes of medulloblastoma, making these aggressive forms of cancer more

responsive to therapies. The work also found the Wnt pathway, which has historically been considered cancer-promoting, to function as a cancer inhibitor in certain contexts. [Read more.](#)

Breast cancer

Prosthetic breast reconstruction outcomes do not deteriorate over time, shows study

Breast reconstruction is an important option for women undergoing mastectomy, and a two-stage approach using implants is by far the most common reconstruction technique.

Thousands of women undergo this procedure every year, despite the conventional wisdom among many surgeons that the results of implant-based breast reconstruction don't hold up over the long term. [Read more](#)

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Offering breast cancer patients a choice of device for administration of chemotherapy: a service improvement project

Caroline Thursh, Rosalind Gartside, Lesley Phillipson
Cancer Nursing Practice. doi: 10.7748/cnp.2020.e1692

This article describes a service improvement project that offered patients with breast cancer, who had received vesicant chemotherapy, a choice between a PICC, and a cannula, as early in their treatment as possible. Evaluation of the project showed that patients preferred PICCs, and that this had improved their experience of care, and potentially reduced the risk of complications associated with cannula-administered vesicant chemotherapy.

Chemo/radiation therapies

Can Weighted Blankets Reduce Patient Anxiety During Outpatient Chemotherapy Infusions?

Covering adult patients with a weighted blanket during outpatient delivery of chemotherapy has been associated with a reduction in anxiety, according to results of a study published in the Clinical Journal of Oncology Nursing. [Read more.](#)

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Assessing and managing chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy

Claire Taylor, Mary Anne Tanay
Cancer Nursing Practice. doi: 10.7748/cnp.2020.e1717

This article summarises the results of a survey undertaken by one English Cancer Alliance, that explored the management of CIPN in oncology services, and the CIPN-related learning needs of oncology clinicians. The article details the local CIPN treatment guidelines devised, following the survey. It also outlines information and advice on the assessment and management of patients with CIPN.

Environmental factors

Study explores link between personal use of hair dyes and cancer risk

Studies have indicated that people who dye their hair regularly may have a higher risk of cancer, especially bladder cancer and breast cancer.

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Environmental Risk Factors: The Role of Oncology Nurses in Assessing and Reducing the Risk for Exposure

Stella Dike, Tiffany McGowan,
CJON 2020, 24(5), 31-38 DOI: 10.1188/20.CJON.S2.31-38

Background: The multifaceted origins of cancer are related to the dynamic interface between the human body, and the environment. It is estimated that as many as 60% of cancers arise from environmental exposures.

Objectives: This article describes potential risks which can lead to the development of cancer with exposure to:

- ~ radon,
- ~ arsenic,
- ~ pesticides, and
- ~ antineoplastic agents.

Methods: The authors performed a review of the literature on environmental exposures, and their relationship to the development of cancer.

Findings: Environmental factors are abundant in the:

- ~ home,
- ~ workplace, and
- ~ environment.

Nurses can lead campaigns to educate the public about environmental risk factors and their effects on the development of cancer.

HPV and vaccine

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The Role of Nursing in Preventing HPV-Related Cancers

Celeste M. Baldwin

CJON 2020, 24(5), 471 **DOI:** 10.1188/20.CJON.471

Human papillomavirus (HPV) is commonly found on the cervix. However, new sites of the virus have emerged during the past 10 years, including the oropharynx in both sexes, and the anus in men. According to Senkomago et al. (2019), 34,800 cancers reported annually in the United States from 2012-2016 were attributable to HPV. Of these cases, 92% were attributable to types of HPV that are targeted by the 9-valent vaccine (Senkomago et al., 2019). The role of the oncology nurse in HPV prevention begins with the education of patients and their family members regarding updated vaccination information.

Lifestyle factors

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Healthy Behaviours: Prevalence of Uptake Among Cancer Survivors

Rachel Hirschey, Kirsten A. Nyrop, Deborah K. Mayer

CJON 2020, 24(5), 19-29 **DOI:** 10.1188/20.CJON.S2.19-29

Background: Although most cancer survivors adhere to recommendations to refrain from tobacco and minimize alcohol use, survivors of certain cancers are not meeting these recommendations. In addition, most cancer survivors do not achieve optimal recommendations for diet and physical activity, further decreasing survivor health and quality of life. Sun protective and sleep behaviours also tend to be suboptimal among survivors. Uptake of age-appropriate vaccinations is variable among survivors.

Objectives: The purpose of this article is to review the prevalence of healthy behaviour uptake among cancer survivors, and provide nurses with an overview of effective interventions, strategies, and resources to help patients improve these behaviours.

Methods: An expert panel was convened to conduct an integrative review and synthesis on the state of the science of healthy behaviour uptake among cancer survivors.

Findings: Not meeting recommendations for healthy lifestyle behaviours increases the risk of second cancers and mortality, and decreases overall health and quality of life. Healthy lifestyle behaviours can contribute to:

- ~ improved function,
- ~ quality of life, and

~ overall survival for cancer survivors.

Nurses can help survivors to understand and improve their behaviours.

Lung cancer (inc smoking)

Combined use of three drugs linked with lower lung cancer incidence and mortality

Combined use of aspirin, statins, and metformin is associated with decreased lung cancer incidence and mortality, according to a study published in the Journal of Thoracic Oncology (JTO). The JTO is the official journal of the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer. [Read more](#)

Melanoma and skin cancers

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Use of artificial intelligence in skin cancer diagnosis and management

Miki Wada, ZongYuan Ge, Stephen J Gilmore and Victoria J Mar

Med J Aust 2020; 213 (6): . || doi: 10.5694/mja2.50759

The challenge now is how to implement artificial intelligence technology safely into clinical practice

Artificial intelligence is a branch of computer science that, in broad terms, deals with either decision making or classification. The aim of artificial intelligence is to surpass human cognitive functioning, such that automated decisions can be made. Machine learning — an application of artificial intelligence — is commonly used in image recognition. In general, the machine, or algorithm, learns from exposure to a large dataset. Once learning has taken place, the algorithm can be applied to unseen data. The potential advantages of this approach in health care are clear: machines can learn from very large datasets in relatively short time frames, and can apply themselves to new data without fatigue or intra-observer replication error.

Primary care

New Study Shows GPs Are Increasingly Crucial To Cancer Care In New Zealand

A new study published in the Journal of Primary Health Care shows that GPs should be involved in all stages of New Zealander's cancer care for patients to have the best chance of success. [Read more](#)

Prostate cancer

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Inequalities between Māori and non-Māori men with prostate cancer in Aotearoa New Zealand

NZMJ Vol 133 No 1520: 4 September 2020

Richard Egan, Jacquie Kidd, Ross Lawrenson, Shemana Cassim, Stella Black, Rawiri Blundell, Jerram Bateman, John Broughton

Prostate cancer is a major health concern globally. In 2015, prostate cancer was the most common incident of cancer in men, with an estimated 1.6 million cases worldwide, and fifth most common cause of cancer deaths for men, with an estimated 366,000 deaths worldwide.

Psychology

Upended Universe: Ambiguous Loss and Grief of a Cancer Diagnosis

Ambiguous loss is a term coined by the psychologist Pauline Boss in the 1970s. The true nature of the term refers to losses that have no clear definition to them, with no closure or clear understanding.^{1,2} For example, those who lost a loved one when the Twin Towers fell on 9/11 never had a body to confirm the death. They knew their loved one had perished and were able to verbalize that their loved one was dead but at the same time, with no body and so much unknown about those last moments, they also held out the hope that somehow their loved one may have survived. Logic and emotion collided, and grief was ground into them as certainly as the dust from the towers. [Read more](#)

Fear of Cancer Progression: Findings From Case Studies and a Nurse-Led Intervention

Anne M. Reb, Tami Borneman, Denice Economou ... et al
CJON 2020, 24(4), 400-408 DOI: 10.1188/20.CJON.400-408

Background: Fear of cancer recurrence or progression (FOP) is a significant concern for cancer survivors. With the advent of new targeted therapies and immunotherapy, many patients with advanced cancer are living longer while dealing with uncertainty and fears related to cancer progression. Although some level of FOP is normal and adaptive, high levels adversely affect quality of life and healthcare costs. [Read more](#)

Screening programmes

Research to inform national cervical screening programme - Victoria University

Researchers from Te Herenga Waka-Victoria University of Wellington have been awarded more than \$1 million from the Health Research Council of New Zealand (HRC) to develop the evidence-base for an effective national HPV screening programme for detecting changes that may lead to cervical cancer. The project will take place in Te Tai Tokerau, Northland, and will be delivered by University researchers in collaboration with Mahitahi Hauora-Northland's primary health entity. [Read more](#)

General articles

The most commonly diagnosed and most common causes of cancer death for Māori New Zealanders | OPEN ACCESS

NZMJ Vol 133 No 1520: 4 September 2020

Jason K Gurney, Bridget Robson, Jonathan Koea, Nina Scott, James Stanley, Diana Sarfati
Cancer is an important cause of morbidity and avoidable mortality for Māori, with more than a quarter of all deaths among Māori attributable to this disease. [Read more](#)

Resources

Research Review Podcast Series

Immuno-Oncology Treatment for Colorectal Cancer

In this recording of a live webcast event held in July 2020, Dr Damianovich addressed an audience of health professionals on developments in immuno-oncology in colorectal cancer. Dragan also presented updates from the recent virtual ASCO20 Conference.

Dr Dragan Damianovich, MD (Zagreb) FRACP, has been a consultant Medical Oncologist at Auckland Hospital since 2006 and at Auckland Oncology since 2008. He is also the expert contributor to Colorectal Oncology Research Review. Dragan is also a member of the Australian Gastrointestinal Trials Group (AGITG), the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), the European Society of Medical Oncology (ESMO) and the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC). [Read more](#)

Ministry of Health

Cancer: Historical summary 1948–2017

These tables contain cancer registration and death data for selected cancers by sex, from 1948–2017. Data is presented as numbers and age-standardised rates, for male, female and total population.

The data was extracted on 23 June 2020.

Deaths data for 2017 is provisional. At the time this mortality data was extracted, there were 332 deaths awaiting final coroners' findings. Of these, 78 deaths had no known cause and 254 deaths had a provisional cause (ie, not yet confirmed).

Data is sourced from the New Zealand Cancer Registry and the New Zealand Mortality Collection, as well as the Cancer: New Registrations and Deaths publications, Mortality and Demographic data publications and Medical Statistics of New Zealand for data relating to 1948–1960. [Read more](#)

Publications and reports

Breast Cancer Research Review Issue 30

In this issue, we review a phase 3 study demonstrating non-inferiority of hypo fractionated breast radiotherapy given over 1 week vs 3 weeks. [Read more](#)

Colorectal Oncology Research Review Issue 26

A ten-year follow-up of patients with Lynch syndrome in the CAPP2 trial supports the recommendation that adult patients with Lynch syndrome should take 600 mg aspirin daily to significantly reduce their risk of developing CRC. [Read more](#)

Research Review Podcast Series Immuno-Oncology Treatment for Urothelial and Renal Cancer

In this recording of a live webcast event held in May 2020, Dr Alvin Tan addressed an audience of NZ healthcare professionals on immuno-oncology in urothelial and renal cancer using case studies to demonstrate recent advances in this fascinating and fast-developing field.

Alvin is a consultant medical oncologist specialising in genito-urinary cancers at Waikato Hospital and Braemar Hospital in Hamilton. [Watch podcast](#)

Miscellaneous

Communication Skills: Use of the Interprofessional Communication Curriculum to Address Physical Aspects of Care

Betty Ferrell, Haley Buller, Judith A. Paice

CJON 2020, 24(5), 547-553 DOI: 10.1188/20.CJON.547-553

Background: The literature has emphasized the importance of effective communication regarding psychosocial needs; however, other aspects of patient care, including attention to physical needs, are equally important.

Objectives: The aims of this article are to (a) describe an Interprofessional Communication Curriculum (ICC) in oncology, (b) detail the curriculum content specifically focused on physical aspects of care, and (c) illustrate the importance of interprofessional care in oncology. [Read more](#)

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Use of Exemplars: Identification of Best Practices in Cancer Prevention and Screening

Colleen O'Leary

CJON 2020, 24(5), 45-48 DOI: 10.1188/20.CJON.S2.45-48

Background: Prevention strategies help to teach what individuals can do to potentially offset cancer risks. Screenings can detect cancer at earlier stages, allowing for earlier treatments and better outcomes.

Objectives: This article seeks to identify best practices in cancer prevention and screening.

Methods: This article presents exemplars in oncology nursing that illustrate implementation of best practices for cancer prevention and screening.

Findings: Oncology nurses are well situated to not only provide education about prevention activities, but also to encourage participation in recommended screenings. Implementation of evidence-based practice, along with the nurses' clinical knowledge and patient preferences, allows for the best outcomes for patients. The use of exemplars is an ideal way of telling nurses' stories to share their experiences and how they affected patient outcomes.

The above bulletin has been compiled by Linda Stopforth, SNIPS, on behalf of College of Cancer nurses, NZNO.

It is provided on the last Friday of each month and contains an overview of news items, articles and research papers of interest to the Section members.

All links are current at the time of being compiled and distributed.

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