

What is an Oncology Nurse Practitioner?

PAID PROMOTIONAL FEATURE

An oncology nurse practitioner is an APRN (advanced practice registered nurse), a clinician with specialized training and experience in caring for cancer patients. Although supervised by an oncologist, the oncology nurse practitioner meets with patients independently, and is trained and educated to perform physical examinations and to diagnose and treat certain conditions. Treatment includes prescribing medications and giving

chemotherapy. An oncology nurse practitioner can also order diagnostic and laboratory tests, can interpret the results of those tests, and can participate in research as part of a clinical trial.

In addition to coordinating with other health care providers, this essential oncology team member educates and counsels cancer patients and their families about the disease and manages the side effects of cancer treatment. The

oncology nurse practitioner serves as a patient advocate and provides patient and family support, working side by side with doctors and providing direct patient care at both bedside and chairside.

This clinician can also advise patients on ways to prepare for survivorship and can provide coaching on living a healthy lifestyle. Care is not just patient-focused but is also family-centered, incorporating the psychosocial, physical, sexual, and spiritual health of the family into the care that patients receive.

Did You Know?

Oncology nurse practitioners perform many roles that were traditionally filled by a physician. In addition to performing biopsies, chemotherapy, and other procedures, they are experts in symptoms management like nausea, vomiting, or pain. You may see them running survivorship programs or high risk cancer clinics. They may perform patient navigator services, case management, hospice, or palliative care. Some work in research or higher education.



Meet Julie Arcaro, RBOI's Oncology Nurse Practitioner

Do you have questions about managing the side effects of cancer treatment? Do you have concerns about quality of life and about dealing with the uncertainties that arise from a cancer diagnosis? Julie Arcaro, APRN, is available onsite at RBOI to address those issues. With more than 20 years' experience in nursing, she has discussed these questions and concerns with individual patients and in the talks she's given to RBOI's support groups and to organizations like the Cancer Alliance of Marion County. Last year she coauthored, with Dr. Norman Anderson, a paper on RBOI's groundbreaking treatment for metastatic malignant melanoma. Writes Ocala Star-Banner columnist Emory Schley, "[If] you should come across Julie Arcaro, APRN, tell her 'hi.' She's a real sweetheart!"

More than
39,000

Nurses certified for oncology and related specializations in the US

12%

Bureau of Labor Statistics projected growth of registered nurses from 2018 to 2028, much faster than the average for all occupations

2,000

Minimum hours of oncology nursing experience required to earn an Oncology Certified Nurse credential

1975

People who recover from coronavirus without needing special treatment



Meditation Invitation

Join RBOI social worker and mindfulness meditation teacher Amy K. Roberts for meditation on Fridays from 10 to 10:30 AM. These sessions are free for anyone affected by cancer in some way. You can join in on Zoom or by phone. If you have never used Zoom, you can call ahead of time and we will walk you through the procedure. Or you can participate via phone, just as you would do for a conference call. For more information, call Amy K. Roberts, LCSW, MMT at 352-732-0277. RBOI's Facebook page also includes details on how to join the sessions. Click on Events.

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