

# NURSING MATTERS

Taking nursing to the next level. Together.

March 2015

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## Upcoming Events

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### March 2-6 Ethics Week:

Lunch hour  
videoconference  
presentations scheduled at  
all BCCA sites for March 4  
and March 5

### March 7 2015 Abstract

**deadline:** CANO-ACIO  
Conference 2015 will be  
held on Oct 4-7. Get your  
abstracts in before the  
March 7<sup>th</sup> deadline.

<http://www.cano-acio.ca/abstract-submission-2>

### April 7 2015 Oncology

**Nursing day:** Celebrated  
in collaboration with  
CANO/ACIO-BC and BCCA  
with a provincially  
videolinked presentation  
and dinner. Keynote  
speaker Dr.Kelli Stajduhar  
and panel of BC oncology  
nurses will be speaking to  
the theme of People,  
Purpose, Passion. Contact  
[bconcnurses@gmail.com](mailto:bconcnurses@gmail.com)

## WELCOME

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*We would appreciate your comments and suggestions for future editions of this newsletter. You can contact us via email at*

*[nursinged@bccancer.bc.ca](mailto:nursinged@bccancer.bc.ca)*

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### Getting to know your provincial nursing colleagues



**Susan Raphael**, is a Registered Nurse working in both the systemic therapy and radiation therapy programs at BCCA-CN. Susan graduated from St. Lawrence College in Brockville Ontario in 1975. Her nursing career has taken her from Nova Scotia to BC in a variety of different specialty areas such as neurosurgery, critical care, IV team, PACU and oncology. Susan moved to Vancouver in 1977 and to Prince George in 1989. While raising her two children, Susan continued nursing in PACU following her move to PG. When her

children were older, Susan applied to the Regional Cancer Care Unit at UHNBC and started working in oncology in 2005. Since then she has completed both her ONDEC and CON(c) certification. Always a leader, Susan was one of the first nurses in BCCA to take the revised RT nursing course when CN opened in 2012; helping to establish the RT nursing role at CN.

Those who know Susan are aware when she is near, either at work or in the community, by her signature laugh (some would say loud- all would say heartwarming). Susan's caring nature and personality allow for open communication to occur with patients. For Susan, the biggest life lessons are that relationship skills and emotional IQ are essential in cancer care and in life. Susan believes the most important traits of an oncology nurse are a desire for continual learning, unconditional love and compassion, and the ability to give hope to the people you are caring for.

## WHAT'S NEW

**New website coming for** [www.bccancer.bc.ca](http://www.bccancer.bc.ca)

The BC Cancer Agency is launching a new website soon with a new design and a more modern website structure. The new site will be easier to read and navigate so our patients and families, colleagues, donors and partners can find what they need easily. It will also be smartphone and tablet-friendly, which makes for easier on the go browsing.

### May 11-15 Nursing week:

The theme of the week is "Nurses – with you every step of the way". Stay tuned for announcements about upcoming activities and presentations

### ETHICS CONFERENCE

**May 1, 2015:** Providence Health is hosting its annual one day ethics conference at SFU's School of business located on Granville Street. The conference theme is **Justice: The Overlooked Principle**. More information can be found at: [http://www.providencehealthcare.org/ethics\\_services/health-ethics-conferences.html](http://www.providencehealthcare.org/ethics_services/health-ethics-conferences.html)

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### Nursing Practice Committee Updates

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Nursing Practice Committee (NPC) meetings take place monthly. Each centre has a NPC representative who will be able to provide you with updates and minutes are available to read on the [H:\EVERYONE\nursing\COMMUNICATION\Nursing Practice Committee \(NPC\)](H:\EVERYONE\nursing\COMMUNICATION\Nursing Practice Committee (NPC).). This section will highlight some of the practice changes.

Recently updated Nursing Practice Reference(s)

- C-90 Central Venous Catheter: Generic Directives

### Nursing Practice Reps

Allison Budgell – CSI  
Chris Lepore – FVC  
Keith Gingerich – VC 5<sup>th</sup> fl  
Trevor Howard – VC ACU  
Jennifer Larsen - AC  
Michele Lafreniere – VIC  
Jennifer Sweet - CN

The new BCCA website is best viewed on Google Chrome or Internet Explorer (version 8 or higher). Most health authorities in BC offer Chrome or Chrome Portable – you can check with your Service Desk to be sure.

Please be sure to visit [www.bccancer.bc.ca](http://www.bccancer.bc.ca) and, when the new site is ready, update your favourites and bookmarks to the pages you visit most often. We look forward to 'welcoming' you to our new site.

### Ever have one of those days.....

I thought it was just another busy day in ambulatory care at BCCA's Vancouver Island Centre, however, as I walked around the corner from the chemo room, I couldn't believe what I saw. Somehow a cat had made its way into the clinic and was walking down the hall – which probably doesn't seem that bad.

But here at our clinic, we have volunteers who stroll through the clinical areas with therapy dogs. Well, when the dog caught sight of the cat, mayhem ensued and the next thing I knew the dog was chasing the cat around a gentleman who was making his way to the chemo room!

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*If you have a fun, strange or interesting story to share, please send it our way at [NursingEd@bccancer.bc.ca](mailto:NursingEd@bccancer.bc.ca)*

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### Advance care planning and goals of care at BCCA: Keeping you informed

Patient and staff information resources and new chart documentation tools will be available spring 2015 to help clinicians support advance care planning and goals of care with patients. This aligns best practice with consent and substitute decision making legislation, BCCA/PHSA policy, other health authorities practice and Ministry of Health priorities.

Staff resources: Goals of Care Orders Form (Physicians), Advance Care Planning Interdisciplinary Record (all team members), Serious Illness Conversation Guide pocket checklist, Prognostic criteria to guide decision making for conversations, Cancer and Advance Care Planning: Tips for Oncology Professionals, List of further resources for staff, BCCA Advance Care Planning and Goals of Care Policy, and End of Life Care Education for Oncology Professionals (EPEC-O) Workshops.

Patient resources: Cancer and Advance Care Planning: You've been Diagnosed with Cancer – Now What?, My Voice booklet, Nidus website <http://www.nidus.ca/> and Prepare Website <https://www.prepareforyourcare.org/?signout> and list of further resources for patients.

Key dates for change: Spring, 2015, Goals of Care Orders form and ACP interdisciplinary documentation forms will be included in all charts in the green sleeve at the front of the chart and in the Alert tab in CAIS. These forms will also be available on demand on H drive and on the new BCCA web site.

How do clinicians get ready?: Read the above documents, Complete the ACP on line learning module, Review the patient and staff resources, Attend EPEC-O sessions when offered.

Questions or for more information? Contact: Trish Hunt at [thunt@phsa.ca](mailto:thunt@phsa.ca) or Gillian Fyles [GFyles@bccancer.bc.ca](mailto:GFyles@bccancer.bc.ca) or access resources at H/Everyone/Advance Care Planning/ACP Resources BCCA 2015

## EDUCATION & SUPPORT

### Professional Nursing Organizations – What's in it for you?

Have you ever wondered about joining a professional nursing organization... but hesitated because you were unsure about how it might benefit you? Many nurses join professional nursing organizations for education opportunities related to their field of practice, and/or interest in attending annual conferences. Professional organizations offer educational opportunities such as webinars in real time and archived that are often free of charge to members. Education support is also available through scholarships and bursaries. Membership usually offers a reduced fee to attend annual conventions and conferences that have engaging presentations on current information, and offer networking opportunities on National and International levels. Along with educational opportunities, these organizations support nurses through development of specialty specific resources and guidelines. Another important function of professional nursing organizations is to increase nursing influence by providing a collective voice to inform public policy within health care and governments that is reflective of the needs of health populations and the value of nursing knowledge. Professional nursing organizations work for you, for patients and for the future of healthcare. Some organizational websites that you may be interested in reviewing are:

**CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF NURSES IN ONCOLOGY- CANO/ACIO** [HTTP://WWW.CANO-ACIO.CA/](http://www.cano-acio.ca/)

**ASSOCIATION OF REGISTERED NURSES OF BC- ARNBC** [HTTP://WWW.ARNBC.CA/](http://www.arnbc.ca/)

**ABORIGINAL NURSES ASSOCIATION OF CANADA- ANAC-** [HTTP://ANAC.ON.CA/](http://anac.on.ca/)

**CANADIAN NURSES FOUNDATION- CNF** [HTTP://CNF-FIIC.CA/](http://cnf-fiic.ca/)

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PERIANESTHESIA NURSES OF CANADA- NAPAN** [HTTP://NAPANC.CA/](http://napanc.ca/)

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*Interested in other educational opportunities? Check out the index of education resources on our website*

<http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/HPI/Nursing/Education/Index+Nursing+Practice+Education+Resources.htm>

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## FOCUS ON INFECTION CONTROL

### Ebola Preparedness: Yes, we have a plan!

Ebola is one of several viruses that can cause hemorrhagic fevers in humans and primates. It attacks the body's vascular system, and can lead to multi-organ failure and hemorrhagic shock. The incubation period ranges from 2-21 days.

Ebola Virus Disease is spread by contact with an infected person's body fluids. The virus is NOT contagious until symptoms appear. Spread of infection becomes more likely as illness progresses and diarrhea, emesis and bleeding increase. The only available treatment is intensive supportive care.

The current outbreak in West Africa was declared a WHO Public Health Emergency in August 2014. At this time the outbreak continues, despite massive ongoing local and international efforts. As of February 2015 there have been over 23000 reported cases of Ebola in West Africa, with over 9000 reported deaths. Of the 833 Health Care Workers in West Africa who have contracted Ebola, 488 have died. (WHO)

Despite the fact that, to date, there have been no cases of Ebola in Canada, the Public Health Agency of Canada and the BC Ministry of Health have recognized that all health care settings where an ill person may present MUST be prepared for Ebola.

The BCCA response plan involves :



1. an initial response to anyone reporting a West African travel history, i.e. the patient is asked to
  - a) don a procedure mask
  - b) clean their hands with alcohol based hand rub
  - c) identify any bathrooms used and
  - d) move to a designated waiting area
2. further assessment by specially trained Ebola response team staff, and
3. prompt transfer of patients with possible Ebola symptoms to a designated Ebola diagnosis and treatment facility.

For detailed information about the BCCA Ebola response plan see BCCA site-specific Ebola directives available at h:\everyone\Infection Control\ Ebola Resources and/or on the POD under Health Care Quality\ Ebola

For personal stories of Ebola caregivers and survivors in West Africa go to <http://blogs.msf.org/en/staff/blogs/msf-ebola-blog>

For the personal story of an American Infection Control Practitioner working in West Africa go to <https://carolafrica.wordpress.com/>

## FEATURE ARTICLE

### Making a Difference: The Importance of Delirium Assessment

People with cancer can be at increased risk for the development of delirium due to factors such as age, medications, and both adequate and inadequate pain management. Early identification of mental status changes can help prevent delirium in some of these people. The following article addresses the nurse's role in prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. Though the article refers to in-patient care, the prevention and intervention strategies can be used to help develop a care plan for an at home care giver.

Faught, D. D. (2014). Delirium: The nurse's role in prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. *MEDSURG Nursing*, 23(5), 301-305. Retrieved from <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=c8h&AN=2012770033&site=ehost-live>

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