

NURSING MATTERS

Taking nursing to the next level. Together.

May 2015

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Upcoming Events

May 11-15 Nursing week:

The theme of the week is "Nurses – with you every step of the way".

Presentations:

May 11: 12:00-13:00. Nurse Practitioner Panel
Presentation: Questions and Answers

May 14: 12:00-13:00. The History of Oncology Nursing- Dr. Margaret Scaia

Nursing Practice Committee Updates

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>

WELCOME

Getting to know your provincial nursing colleagues



Katie Hennessy, a 2013 graduate from University of Victoria joined BCCA as an RN after completing her student practicum at Vancouver Island Centre (VIC). Prior to making the decision to become a RN she studied acupuncture/Traditional Chinese Medicine. Currently Katie works with the VIC Pain and Symptom Management Palliative Care team and in the community Speciality Health Network where she educates and administers hormone therapy to men with prostate cancer.

When asked about a favourite oncology story, Katie shared this 'full circle' story. "When I was a student, we had a gentleman come to speak to our cohort about his cancer journey and how amazing the nurses were that got him through it. His story was what inspired me to want to work in oncology, and shortly after that my sister-in-law was diagnosed with breast cancer. To experience first-hand the care she received was motivating. During my final practicum at BCCA, Valentine's Day came around and a former patient came in to deliver roses to all of the patients and nurses, with inspirational quotes on each one. It was the same gentleman that I had heard speak two years earlier, so it was great to be able to meet him personally and be part of that."

Katie feels privileged to be able to care for patients and family members and finds the strength and positivity they share to be inspiring. She wants to remind us "that things can change in the blink of an eye. Make things count. Don't focus on the negative" – a good sentiment for us all.

WHAT'S NEW

National Nursing Week- May 11-18

National Nursing Week is a time to consider and reflect on the work and contributions of the nursing profession. This year the theme for Nursing Week is "Nurses: With You Every Step of the Way". This theme speaks to the journey of individual nurses as they support patients, interdisciplinary team members and their fellow nursing colleagues. In a broader lens, it also fits with the growth of our profession historically as we are poised to lead and support the necessary changes to our healthcare system through innovative solutions that will allow us to

[Practice Committee \(NPC\).](#)

This section will highlight some of the practice changes.

NEW: Symptom Management Guideline: Malignant Wounds.
<http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/health-professionals/professional-resources/nursing/symptom-management>

Nursing Practice Reps

Allison Budgell – CSI
Chris Lepore – FVC
Keith Gingerich – VC
Trevor Howard – VC
Jennifer Larssen - AC
Michele Lafreniere – VIC
Jennifer Sweet - CN

continue to provide quality care. Nursing today has roles in care, advocacy, leadership, education, and research. These roles are evident at a clinical, organizational, provincial and national level. So take a moment to celebrate nursing and all the potential we have in being “with you every step of the way”. Professional Practice Nursing invites you to attend one of the featured presentations and take time to check out the storyboards showcasing nursing initiatives at the BCCA available to view at all six BCCA Centres. For more information on the presentations please see the Upcoming Events section of the newsletter.

Hot Off the Press! Malignant Wound Symptom Management Guideline (SMG)

Recently, members of the Nursing Practice Committee approved the new Malignant Wound SMG. Previously, information guiding the clinical management of malignant wounds was found in the Nursing Practice Reference M-30, Care of Malignant Wounds.

The purpose for creating this SMG was to update the information and make it more “user friendly”. Unlike other SMGs, the Malignant Wound SMG does not have a grading system as none exist; rather the focus is on assessment, care planning and dressing options.

The emphasis throughout this SMG is ensuring that the patient is central to care planning. Living with, and caring for, malignant wounds can be both physically and psychologically debilitating for patients. It can also take a toll on health care providers and family care takers.

One of the most distressing symptoms of malignant wounds is odour control. You can learn more about managing this symptom by referring to the article found in the [Feature Article](#) section of this issue of Nursing Matters.

12th Annual Oncology Nursing Day- BCCA Professional Practice Nursing and CANO BC Team up to Celebrate Across the Province

On April 7, 2015, we had the opportunity to celebrate oncology nursing day with a dinner, a presentation by Dr. Kelli Stadjuhar and the stories of two oncology nurses, Lianne Germain and Senz Hamilton. Through Telehealth technology we managed to link the BCCA centers with several of the Community Oncology sites across BC.

Dr. Stadjuhar gave an inspiring talk about the unique contributions oncology nurses make in the lives of people who have cancer. One of the key messages was how patients appreciate the ability of oncology nurses to be authentic or vulnerable when they are caring for them.

Lianne and Senz spoke about their purpose and passion as oncology nurses and how this influences the care they provide. The importance of developing authentic, therapeutic relations with patients was echoed in their talks.

Thank you to all oncology nurses who share their purpose and passion daily as they care for people who have cancer.

Note: Lianne’s full story can be read at the following location:

<http://oncologynursingday.com/category/stories-2/>

If you have a fun, strange or interesting story to share, please send it our way at NursingEd@bccancer.bc.ca

EDUCATION & SUPPORT

Did you know that the BC Cancer Agency Library offers “Pathfinders” for patients and family members?

Pathfinders are subject guides to books, DVDs, CDs, pamphlets, recommended websites and support services available at BCCA. There are currently pathfinders available for 19 types of cancer and more are being created all the time. There are also pathfinders on a wide variety of other topics such as, *Coping with Cancer*, *Helping Children Cope When a Parent has Cancer*, *Coping with Grief* (for both adults and children), *Depression and Anxiety*, *Chemotherapy*, *Radiation Therapy*, *Fatigue*, *Sexuality and Partner Support*, *Personal Appearance*, *Life after Cancer*, and many more. These pathfinders offer a good starting point for patients and family members who want more information about a topic by leading them to reliable resources on the internet and in the library and making them aware of some of the many support services available to them. You can find the pathfinders on the main Library page of the BC Cancer Agency website or ask your local librarian about them.

Interested in other educational opportunities? Check out the index of education resources on our website <http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/nursing-site/Documents/INDEX%20of%20Nursing%20Practice%20and%20Education%20Resources.pdf>

FOCUS ON INFECTION CONTROL

Aseptic Technique and Infection Control

We often hear about a patient who had to have her PICC removed due to an infection and wonder how did such a sterile site get an infection? Could it be that someone handling the site did not use good technique?

What is aseptic technique? Aseptic technique and surgical asepsis are practices that maintain areas and objects free of pathogenic microorganisms. This practice decreases the patient's exposure to infections. Completing hand hygiene before gathering our dressing supplies together and cleaning our working surface with alcohol or disinfectant wipe are two of the first steps we take to prevent transferring microbes to our immune-compromised patients.

Some of the other ways we do this is to remember that the outer edge of a sterile field is not considered sterile.

- * always open the sterile drape surrounding the dressing tray away from us so that the last fold in the cloth is pulled towards us.
- * never reach across the sterile field; this helps to prevent bacteria from dropping on to our aseptic field.
- * open up sterile packages outside of the sterile area and carefully drop or slide sterile supplies on to the field
- * if sneezing or coughing, wear a mask to change a PICC dressing and when setting up the aseptic field.
- * always perform hand hygiene before and after using gloves

* gloves become contaminated when they are used to touch a dressing site

* remember to always clean from clean to dirty ie inside-to-out

FEATURE ARTICLE

Malignant Wound Care: The Importance of Managing Wound Odour

People with malignant wounds and their caregivers often express that the wound odour can be not only distressing but have a negative effect on overall quality of life (Gethin et al., 2014). Though there is still much needed to standardize best practice in this area, nurses have an opportunity to work with these people and available resources to provide the best support possible. The following article is an international survey reviewing current practices on wound odour management.

Gethin, G., Grocott, P., Probst, S., & Clarke, E. (2014). Current practice in the management of wound odour: An international survey. *International Journal of Nursing Studies*, 51(6), 865-874. Retrieved from:

<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=ccm&AN=2012561206&site=ehost-live>

Note: Article link works best if copied and pasted into Google Chrome browser. If using Internet explorer less than version 8 please use the following steps:

- Click on the “retrieved from” link to open the abstract page of the malignant wound article
- Click on the PDF Full Text icon on the left hand side of the page
- Click on the permalink icon on the right hand side

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