

# NURSING MATTERS

December, 2019

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## Upcoming Events

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**January 9-March 2:**  
[CNA Application  
Window for May 1-15  
Exam Window](#)

**October 23-26:**  
[CANO Conference](#)

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## Communication Updates

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[CST](#) – There is a new one-stop shop website for all things CST

[ST Update](#) – A monthly newsletter for health professionals who provide systemic therapy care and treatment

[Education Bulletin](#) – An update for healthcare professionals on new treatment programs

Welcome to the December issue of NURSING MATTERS, a bi-monthly newsletter developed by oncology nurses in BC. Our aim is to help connect oncology nurses across the province and keep you informed of upcoming changes, events, opportunities, resources and research. We would love to hear your ideas and feedback! If you would like to submit an article, please email us at [nursinged@bccancer.bc.ca](mailto:nursinged@bccancer.bc.ca) for more information.

To get us started with this month's edition, we want to share an article with you, written by Dr. Sally Thorne, titled *Nursing now or never*. The World Health Organization has declared 2020 as the *Year of the Nurse and Midwife* (World Health Organization, 2018), and as Dr.



Thorne states, “we are on the brink of an unprecedented opportunity to make significant inroads toward positioning nursing in more powerful ways...and celebrate the contribution our discipline makes to the health and well-being of populations worldwide”. Check out Dr. Thorne’s article [here](#), and as you scroll down to see what’s new and coming within BC Cancer, consider the possibilities and what we can do to support one another and strive for practice excellence.

Thorne, S. (2019). Nursing now or never. *Nursing Inquiry*. Retrieved from <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/nin.12326>

Just a reminder that monthly, new updates for systemic therapy are posted in the [ST update](#) as well as the [Education Bulletin](#).

## WHAT'S NEW

### Nursing Practice References (NPR) Revision Process

BC Cancer NPRs undergo a major review and revision every five years, with many of the current NPRs due for revision in the next year. The BC Cancer Nursing Practice Committee has historically been responsible for reviewing and approving NPRs; however, with the sun-setting of the committee earlier this year, there has been a need to develop a new review and approval process. Members of the Nurse Educator group, in collaboration with the Policy Office, have created a new structure to ensure that a robust and appropriate review and approval process is completed in a timely manner.

NPR revisions and approval of revisions will be completed by an ad hoc working group, with membership comprising at least the following:

- 2 Clinical Nurse Leaders
- 2 Direct Care Nurses
- 2 Nurse Educators
- 1 Senior Practice Leader
- Other content experts are required (i.e. Infection Prevention and Control Practitioner, Pharmacy, etc.)



All six BC Cancer centres must be represented, with final sign-off completed by the Director of Professional Practice Nursing. [Questions about the new process? Follow up with your local Clinical Nurse Educator, or refer to the FAQ document.](#)

## Biosimilars

Biosimilars are biologic medicines (complex protein molecules created inside a living cell), that work the same as the original brand name biologic drug that we refer to as a reference biologic. Biologics have been a mainstay in many types of cancer treatment including breast, GI, lung and ovarian cancers. They are new to Systemic Therapy at BC Cancer but have been approved for use in Canada since 2009 for conditions such as arthritis and diabetes. We have used a biosimilar drug in one supportive care indication in BC Cancer in the form of Grastofil. Similar to generic drugs, Health Canada has very strict rules and high standards that companies manufacturing biosimilars need to meet. These drugs are highly similar, having the same: mechanism of action, side effect profile, and administration guidelines as their reference biologic *and* they must be proven to work just as well. In November of 2019, the first biosimilar, Zirabev, which is the biosimilar trade name for the reference biologic Bevacizumab, was implemented at BC Cancer. In early 2020, BC Cancer will integrate 2 more commonly used biologic biosimilars into practice - rituximab and trastuzumab. For more information, visit the [BC Cancer website](#).

## Smoking Cessation Update

Thank you to everyone for your dedication in promoting smoking cessation to our patients! As we know, smoking cessation following a cancer diagnosis is an important part of cancer treatment and helps to improve patient outcomes. As a recap, the primary goals of the program are to:

- Screen all new patients for smoking status
- Advise current smokers on the benefits of quitting specific to a cancer diagnosis
- Refer identified current smokers to QuitNow, our free provincial quit smoking program



New updates regarding smoking cessation include:

- Quit Path brochures for Yukon patients, which are now available at all centres

Additionally, you can check out a Q&A article about smoking cessation and the Pan-Canadian Action Framework, written by Dr. Renelle Myers, which you can find [here](#). Scroll down to page 14 of *The Hill Times* to read about the significant health and economic benefits of supporting patients in quitting smoking.

Myers, R. (2019). Tobacco cessation as a first-line cancer treatment. Good for patients & the health care system. *The Hill Times*, 31 (1679). 14. Retrieved from [https://www.hilltimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/110619\\_ht.pdf?uid=190&utm\\_source=pdf\\_issue&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=20191106&utm\\_source=Subscriber++++Hill+Times+Publishing&utm\\_campaign=e6e1f237ff-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2019\\_11\\_06\\_08\\_00&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_8edecd9364-e6e1f237ff-90755389&mc\\_cid=e6e1f237ff&mc\\_eid=29b1a293a5](https://www.hilltimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/110619_ht.pdf?uid=190&utm_source=pdf_issue&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20191106&utm_source=Subscriber++++Hill+Times+Publishing&utm_campaign=e6e1f237ff-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_11_06_08_00&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_8edecd9364-e6e1f237ff-90755389&mc_cid=e6e1f237ff&mc_eid=29b1a293a5)

# EDUCATION & RESOURCES

## Provincial Nursing Orientation Update

Research Innovation and Education has been busy collaborating with Clinical Nurse Educators, Senior Practice Leads and Clinical Nurse Leaders around the province to make important updates to Nursing Orientation at BC Cancer. Our changes are based on what we heard from YOU in the Needs Assessment, which was conducted in the fall of 2018 and spring of 2019. We heard loud and clear that nurses:

- Often felt overwhelmed by the level of detail in orientation and wanted a more structured and ladder approach. In other words, you told us to give you the information that you need to feel ready to practice and do your job.
- Wanted more 'hands on' opportunities to practice what they learned in orientation, including skills workshops, case studies, and simulation based learning.

As highlighted in the last issue, work completed thus far includes updates to the management of hazardous drug spills, with the inclusion of a spill simulation, a new Serious Illness Conversations, Advance Care Planning, and Medical Assistance in Dying interactive group case study, featuring a patient speaker who courageously shares her experience with these complex topics, and a much needed update to Cancer Fundamentals and Supporting Patients with Cancer.

We currently have 4 working groups tackling the next orientation updates, including revamping Introduction to Patient Education, Introduction to Nursing Resources, Infusion Therapy, and the Symptom Management Guidelines workshop. Our plan is to roll out these updated sessions early in 2020! Lastly, we have created and implemented a robust evaluation, so any future changes to orientation will be based on clear evidence and the learner's voice!

Have questions or want to get involved? Contact Dave Whiteside, Lead Education and Research ([david.whiteside@bccancer.bc.ca](mailto:david.whiteside@bccancer.bc.ca)) and stay tuned to the next edition of Nursing Matters for further updates!

## Educator Pathway

### Level 2

The Educator Pathway Level 2 was a successful re-launch of PHSA's Educator Pathway. Over 2 months, educators across PHSA met 8 times for a full day of learning, collaboration and fun. The feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive, with many takeaways from the course. A BC Cancer attendee, Jen, found the workshop, "an engaging and wonderful experience, with amazing facilitation and the opportunity to network, collaborate and form relationships with other educators across PHSA."

The Educator Pathway is back, with level 3 being offered in January. This five day course aims to increase individual's competencies to lead effective education within diverse groups in terms of role, disciplines and practice areas. According to Yujin Lim, course facilitator and collaborative leader, Level 3 attendees will be provided with an enhanced understanding of learning processes and theory relevant for diverse learnings in multiple settings. If you are interested in participating in the Educator Pathway Level 3, please speak with your manager or leader and retrieve more information on the [POD](#).

## The PHSA Level 3 Educator Pathway Program



Are you interested in advancing your skills in the area of education? Do you facilitate learning in multiple settings? If that sounds like the work you do, you should consider enrolling in the PHSA Winter Level 3 Educator Pathway Program.

Open to all PHSA employees. Apply now for the winter Level 3 cohort at: <https://learninghub.phsa.ca/Courses/22245/the-phsa-educator-pathway-level-3-application-form>. **Registration closes on December 31.**

Workshops will be on the following dates:

- January 21, 22
- February 11, 12 and 26

For more information, please contact Yujin Lim, collaborative practice leader, education & special projects at [yujin.lim@phsa.ca](mailto:yujin.lim@phsa.ca).

# HIGHLIGHTS

## BC Cancer Summit

The 2019 BC Cancer summit was a huge success, with over 1,300 professionals joining together to learn, discuss, and celebrate, with patient-centred care as our main focus. We heard remarkable stories from patients and families about the care they have received at BC Cancer. We heard a patient panel speak specifically to nursing about how nurses impacted their care, and what nurses could do to improve their health care experiences. Their heartfelt stories reminded us of why we do what we do, and motivated us to continue to strive towards providing excellent patient and family centred care now and in the years to come. This year, we also celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the BC Cancer - [Genomic Sciences Centre](#) (GSC), which has helped B.C achieve some of the BEST cancer outcomes in the world. Take a look at the amazing accomplishments shown in this [video](#).

BC CANCER SUMMIT

Finally, big congratulations to the recipients of the **2019 BC Cancer Excellence Awards**:

### Individuals

#### **Unsung Hero:**

Craig Giles, Patient Care Aide, BC Cancer – Surrey

#### **Workplace Inspiration:**

Dr. Stacy Miller, Radiation Oncologist, Regional Medical Director, BC Cancer – Prince George

#### **Patient Care Champion (nominated by staff):**

Dr. Karen Goddard, Radiation Oncologist, BC Cancer – Vancouver

#### **Patient Care Champion (nominated by patients):**

Dr. Phillip B. Malpass, Nelson – Community Oncology Network

### Teams

#### **Teamwork and Collaboration in Action:**

Early Palliative Integration into Cancer Care (EPICCC) Team

#### **Innovation and Discovery in Action:**

Brachytherapy Team: Dr's. Juanita Crook, François Bachand, Deidre Batchelar, and Michelle Hilts, BC Cancer – Kelowna

# FEATURE ARTICLE

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## Patient education issues and strategies associated with immunotherapy

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This article, written by Lasa-Blandon et al, discusses not only the complexities involved in patient education, particularly in the oncology setting, but also the potential for serious adverse events associated with immunotherapy drugs. It is important for health care providers who administer immunotherapies (and assist patients in managing potential side effects) are provided with appropriate teaching strategies to empower patients and caregivers in identifying early toxicities.

*“Patients require ongoing education to their clinical needs. It is a critical role of the nurse to provide individualized patient education that includes consideration of barriers and methods of learning.”*

Lasa-Blandon, M., Stasi, K., Hehir, A., & Fischer-Carlidge, E. (2019). Patient education issues and strategies associated with immunotherapy. *Seminars in Oncology Nursing*, 35(2019). Retrieved from

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0749208119301159>

information; it should not be interpreted as an endorsement or promotion of any particular event, activity or participant.