Developing advanced nursing practice to benefit your nurse-led clinics

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Objectives

- Discuss meanings, implications & perceptions
- Discuss clinical skills and competencies
- Discuss ways to demonstrate value of roles in NLC
- Discuss career opportunities
- Illustrate with research findings:
  1. Survey of oncology nurses’ roles in nurse-led clinics
  2. Ethnographic study of nurse-led chemotherapy clinics
What do we mean by advanced nursing practice?

What do we mean by nurse-led clinics?
Advanced nursing practice

• Scope of professional practice
  • Clinical skills beyond registration
  • Clinical competencies
  • Autonomy
Advanced nursing practice

Knowledge

Experience

Nursing values

Qualifications
Oncology advanced nursing practice

National survey of 103 senior oncology nurses

• Great disparities in clinical practice
  • Clinical skills
  • Competencies
• Variations in:
  • Nurses’ titles, roles and responsibilities
  • Training and qualifications
  • Time for direct patient care
• Differences in autonomy within nurse-led clinics
Nature of clinical examinations
Barriers limiting clinical practice
Nurse-led clinics

Telephone

Face to face
Nurse led clinics in oncology

- Follow up: 31.6% No, 67.1% Yes
- Chemotherapy: 64.6% No, 32.9% Yes
- Radiotherapy: 91.1% No, 7.6% Yes
- Other: 48.1% No, 50.6% Yes
Barriers to nurse-led clinics

The diagram shows the percentages of different factors as barriers to nurse-led clinics. The factors are categorized into Organisation, Nursing, Medicine, and Other.

- **Organisation**: 60.8% (No), 29.1% (Yes)
- **Nursing**: 96.1% (No), 5.1% (Yes)
- **Medicine**: 78.5% (No), 11.4% (Yes)
- **Other**: 59.5% (No), 30.4% (Yes)

The data indicates that nursing is the most significant barrier, with almost complete agreement that it is a challenge, whereas the other categories have a mix of responses.
Examination skills in nurse-led clinics

![Bar chart showing examination skills in nurse-led clinics]
Use of clinical examination skills in nurse-led clinics

- Observations: 81 skilled, 42 clinical use
- Local: 71 skilled, 17 clinical use
- Respiratory: 21 skilled, 8 clinical use
- Cardiovascular: 20 skilled, 8 clinical use
- Abdominal: 38 skilled, 17 clinical use
- Top to toe: 10 skilled, 0 clinical use
Nurse prescribing in nurse-led clinics
Nurse-led chemotherapy clinics

- Power
  - Doctors
    - Role
    - Responsibilities
  - Knowledge
    - Cancer
    - Processes
- Skills
  - Prescribing
  - Clinical skills
    - Communication
- Autonomy
  - Confidence
  - Abilities
  - Perceptions
- The essence of nursing care

Autonomy

Chemotherapy clinics

The essence of nursing care
4 Levels of nurse-led chemotherapy clinics

- **Comprehensive nurse-led care:** for duration of regimen
- **Nurse-led reviews:** separate consultation, independent prescribing chemotherapy
- **Nurse-led pre-assessment:** separate consultation, limited prescribing
- **Nurse-led chemotherapy administration and combined assessment**
Key findings

- Nurses’ roles and responsibilities lack transparency
- Ad hoc development of nurse-led clinics
- Increasing clinical demands
- Clinics run by nurses but controlled by doctors
Nurse-led chemotherapy clinics

- Different levels of nurse-led chemotherapy clinics
- Doctor-nurse substitution & medical model of care
- No clear structure to consultations
- Not holistic care
- Not patient-centred care
- Inadequate psychosocial assessment
Nurse-led chemotherapy clinics

• Nurse-led clinics are safe and acceptable
• Nurses have knowledge and clinical skills
• With increased medicalisation of nursing roles we lose the essence of nursing
• There is evidence of compassionate care
  ….but also evidence of poor communication skills
Expanding your skills and competence

• Consider what skills you will **need** for your nurse-led clinic…. not just what skills you **want**

• Clinical skills: Formal qualifications & courses vs local training

• Prescribing: Essential if you will use it but not necessary for some clinics
Developing & expanding your clinic

• Prioritise benefits for patients
• Consider aims & objectives of your NLC
• Need support from nursing colleagues
• Need support from medical colleagues
• Need support from nursing & hospital managers
• Need admin & secretarial support
• Audit  Evaluate  Research  Educate
Demonstrating the value of your role

- ANP roles are not transparent
- Crucial that colleagues and patients understand
  - Key aspects of your role & competencies
  - Levels of responsibilities & risk management
  - Where your boundaries lie
  - Clinical processes & pathways
  - What you do within your clinics

Audit  Evaluate  Educate  Inform  Research
Career development

- Clinical
- Education
- Research
- Management

- Nurse consultant
- Lecturer practitioner
- Secondments
- Clinical academic pathways
- Honorary University roles
Recommendations

• Greater focus on patient-centred care
• Greater utilization of nursing values
• Greater focus on psychosocial care
• Regular evaluation of clinics
• Further research on nurses’ roles in oncology, patients and staff perspectives