



Prostate Cancer  
Foundation  
of Australia

PRACTICE FRAMEWORK  
AND COMPETENCY  
STANDARDS FOR THE  
**PROSTATE CANCER  
SPECIALIST NURSE**

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MARCH 2013

MONOGRAPHS IN  
PROSTATE CANCER

# OUR VISION, MISSION AND VALUES

**Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia (PCFA) is the peak national body for prostate cancer in Australia. We are dedicated to reducing the impact of prostate cancer on Australian men, their partners and the wider community.**

We do this by:

- Promoting and funding world leading, innovative research into prostate cancer
- Implementing awareness campaigns and education programs for the Australian community, health professionals and Governments
- Supporting men and their families affected by prostate cancer, through evidence-based information and resources, support groups and Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurses

PCFA receives Government funding for specific projects and relies on the generosity of individuals, the community and partnerships, such as those with The Movember Foundation and Commonwealth Bank, to carry out our essential work.

**PCFA's five values are: integrity, optimism, compassion, respect and commitment**

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## **Disclaimer**

This document is a general guide to appropriate practice, to be followed subject to the nurse's level of competency, local policy and the patient's presentation and preference in each individual case.

These guidelines are intended to inform practice at a specialist nursing level and are not meant to be prescriptive.

## **Conflict of Interest**

This document was produced following extensive national consultation with recognised experts in the field of cancer, urology nursing and policy and practice development. No remuneration was provided for this consultation work.

## **Periodic updates**

It is planned that Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia will review this document after a period of not exceeding five years.

## **Suggested citation:**

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PCFA would like to recognise the Movember Foundation as a key funder of its national Prostate Cancer Specialist Nursing Service

# FOREWORD



## A diagnosis of prostate cancer causes significant anxiety for men and their families.

**Complex multi-modality treatment pathways, potential long term side effects, and prolonged surveillance programs requiring ongoing hospital visits, all add to the burden of the disease.**

Within the Australian context, regional and rural patients are further disadvantaged, often having to travel significant distance to access equitable care, and are recognised to have poorer health outcomes<sup>1</sup>. Despite strategies at both the local and national level to improve the outcomes for cancer patients, navigation of services and a lack of expert supportive and specialist nursing care remain frequently reported issues by those accessing cancer services.

The role of the Specialist Nurse in the care of patients with many types of chronic illness, including some cancer types, is well recognised and integrated into clinical practice at both a national and international level. However, there remains no accredited defined Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurse position within Australia, and this can potentially lead to variations

in practice. Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia has undertaken to produce these guidelines for practice to aid in the definition of a best practice model for the Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurse within the Australian health care context.

During the development of the guidelines, a series of consultations were held with key stakeholders in health care delivery, strategic service development and selected nursing professional bodies, representing all States and Territories across Australia, with site visits to a selection of prostate cancer treatment centres. An extensive literature review was undertaken to scope existing work in this field. The main contributory pieces to this document are the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council Registered Nurse Competency Framework<sup>2</sup> and the National Cancer Nursing Education Project Professional Development Framework for the Specialist Cancer Nurse<sup>3</sup>. Both pieces are acknowledged as best evidence frameworks for nursing practice in Australia and provided the structure for these guidelines.

PCFA is grateful to all those who freely gave their time to contribute to the development of this document and would like to acknowledge the efforts of all nurses dedicated to reducing the impact of prostate cancer on the community.

**Julie Sykes**  
**Director of Nursing**  
**Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia**

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## REFERENCES

1. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2010). A snapshot of men's health in regional and rural Australia. Rural health series number 11, Category number PHE120. Canberra: AIHW.
2. Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council (2006). National competency standards for registered nurses. Canberra: ANMC.
3. The National Cancer Nursing Education Project (EdCaN). (2008). National Education Framework – Cancer Nursing: A national professional development framework for cancer nursing. Canberra: Cancer Australia.

# I. PRACTICE FRAMEWORK FOR THE SPECIALIST NURSE IN PROSTATE CANCER CARE

The Practice Framework describes the scope of the Prostate Cancer Specialist Nursing role at both a clinical and strategic level to both inform and influence practice at an advanced level.

## POSITION SUMMARY

Prostate cancer treatment adopts a multimodality approach of surgery, hormones, radiotherapy, chemotherapy and surveillance programs. The Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurse is involved in the care of men in all treatment streams and is an integral part of the multidisciplinary team.

The Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurse role is defined as an expert point of contact for the patient and family, providing both psychosocial and clinical support to men with prostate cancer using a structured approach. The Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurse works alongside existing healthcare providers to contribute to the delivery of effective care for men with prostate cancer.

The Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurse assists patients to make optimal use of resources available in their immediate community, and streamlines service delivery when referral to another centre is required.

Given the diversity in need for prostate cancer support within the different health areas of Australia, provision to develop the clinical scope of the role in accordance to local need is advocated, providing it remains exclusively for the benefit of prostate cancer patients and within the framework of a specialist cancer nurse.

The Prostate Cancer Specialist Nursing role also adopts a strategic function to influence care at a systems level both locally and at State and national level.

# PRACTICE FRAMEWORK FOR THE SPECIALIST NURSE IN PROSTATE CANCER CARE

The framework described in this document is based on the competency standards for the specialist cancer nurse as detailed in the National Cancer Nursing Education Project (EdCaN). The framework is proposed for the registered nurse practising as a Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurse.

## A) PROVISION AND CO-ORDINATION OF CARE

Provision and co-ordination of care includes the assessment, planning, implementation, and evaluation of care for people affected by cancer, and consists of these four practice dimensions:

- i) Disease and treatment related care
- ii) Supportive care
- iii) Co-ordinated care
- iv) Information provision and education

### i) DISEASE AND TREATMENT RELATED CARE

This includes activities that reflect the Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurse's role in reducing risk as well as managing the disease, treatment delivery and follow-up care.

#### Prior to Diagnosis

The Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurse will possess knowledge of, and participate in activities that contribute to reducing the risk of developing cancer and that promote early detection of cancer.

The Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurse is well placed to take an active role in the education of the community on prostate cancer awareness and the importance of early detection. Early detection of prostate cancer is frequently associated with the use of the PSA test in the well population. The debate on screening for prostate cancer is long standing and at present there is no standardised screening test available in Australia specific to prostate cancer. Whilst the Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurse's role

is predominantly focused on men with an existing diagnosis, there will be occasions where the nurse will be contacted by the well community for information and advice on PSA testing. The nurse has a responsibility to ensure that the information given to patients on these occasions reflects current best practice recommendations.

#### Prior to Treatment

A significant proportion of the Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurse role will be providing information and support to newly diagnosed men. Where possible the Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurse should be present at the time the patient is given a prostate cancer diagnosis to ensure timely continuation of the dialogue following the patient's consultation with their Urologist. Recognising that not all Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurses will be based in all clinical environments, the nurse should endeavour to contact the patient within 72 hours of receipt of referral, to ensure the patient receives adequate information and support at a time when they are likely to be experiencing high anxiety. The Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurse will play a vital role in helping men with the decision making process following a diagnosis, and remain a key contact person for the patient throughout the care continuum.

#### During Treatment

In order to be an effective resource for the patient, the nurse should demonstrate advanced knowledge of prostate cancer disease and all treatment modalities, side effects and survivorship issues to be able to effectively manage patient care. Whilst it is not anticipated that the Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurse will take an active role in the delivery of treatments such as hormone manipulation therapy and chemotherapy, given that health care systems

have existing processes in place for this purpose, the nurse does need to demonstrate advanced knowledge of all aspects of prostate cancer care to be able to recognise and appropriately manage patient problems.

### Following Treatment

Assessment of side effects and management following treatment is traditionally the responsibility of the patient's treating medical practitioner for the majority of patients. There are a growing number of nurses working in specific clinical specialties who have received additional training to enable them to undertake these extended roles to different levels. Rural areas have been identified as having the most limited on-site expert nursing resources, with some health areas facing challenges providing regular nursing services. Therefore, Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurses in these areas of need should be given scope to develop skills in a specific area of prostate cancer nursing, for example, continence care, providing the nurse is suitably trained and deemed competent to undertake this extended role. This is in addition to maintaining the supportive care role. This model is particularly effective in both rural areas and small practices, where patient numbers referred to the nurse, are expected to be lower than for Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurses in large metropolitan centres, who receive higher numbers of referrals for supportive care. In addition, large metropolitan centres are typically equipped with a higher level of other specialist nursing resource and allied health facilities, and avoidance of duplication in role is a key consideration when implementing the role in these centres.

### Within the Context of Research

The Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurse should also possess knowledge of current prostate clinical trials available to their client group. Whilst the Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurse should not be operating in the function of a clinical trial co-ordinator or research nurse, the post holder should have the awareness of current research opportunities and have contact with the necessary personnel in their employing organisation, responsible for the trials recruitment.

### ii) SUPPORTIVE CARE

Supportive care is a term used to refer to services beyond treatment which may be required by those affected by cancer, including self-help and support, information, psychological support, symptom control, social support, rehabilitation, spiritual support, palliative care and bereavement care. Supportive care in cancer refers to the following five domains:

- Physical needs
- Psychological needs
- Social needs
- Information needs
- Spiritual needs

Meeting the patient's supportive care needs requires the nurse to undertake assessment for psychosocial risk factors and distress, at the time of diagnosis and on a regular basis using a systematic, evidence-based approach. This is followed by effective communication with other members of the health care team and appropriate onward referral. An essential role for the Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurse is to provide an initial assessment of the patient's psychosocial needs and provide ongoing support throughout the cancer trajectory based on further assessment. Following assessment, the nurse can then offer and organise the necessary supportive care interventions and agree a point for re-evaluation with the patient.

Assessment of need should also incorporate assessment of the effects of disease and treatment in addition to generic psychosocial support.

It is recommended that the Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurse assess the needs of patients using only agreed validated tools to ensure consistent, evidence based service provision to all patients accessing the service.

The Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurse should ensure patients are made aware of their available local health and social services where applicable, to address needs arising from the effects of treatment.

# PRACTICE FRAMEWORK FOR THE SPECIALIST NURSE IN PROSTATE CANCER CARE

(continued)

## iii) CO-ORDINATED CARE

Co-ordination of care involves an organisational approach to care planning, implementation and evaluation by ensuring a comprehensive range of health and support services are delivered by the interdisciplinary team in a timely, flexible and efficient manner. Given that men with prostate cancer often see a range of health care providers throughout the cancer journey including Urologists, Oncologists, General Practitioners, Radiologists and Allied Health, there is opportunity for the patient to become lost in the system and suffer avoidable psychological distress whilst accessing health care. The Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurse is ideally placed to assist in the co-ordination of care in a complementary manner to existing service providers.

The Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurse will serve as the point of contact and will assist patients navigating the health care system, ensuring timely delivery of information and access to diagnostics and treatments. The Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurse will complement the patients treating multi-disciplinary team, and have structured contact with the key members to have “whole of health” perspective throughout the continuum of care.

Part of this co-ordination function, includes ensuring patients have access to the full range of supportive care resources open to them in their geographical area. Patients should be given information about sources of help, such as local and national support groups and disability and benefits help lines, both verbally and in writing. This essential role for the Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurse also includes addressing the specific needs associated with survivorship and ensuring patients can access these resources in a timely manner. Appropriate, timely referral to specialist treatment centres, social work and allied health is a key element of this function.

## iv) INFORMATION PROVISION AND EDUCATION

The Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurse should provide comprehensive, co-ordinated, specialised and individualised information and education to the person affected by cancer about the pathophysiology of cancer and its physical and psychological effects, treatment approaches and self-management strategies.

A significant proportion of the Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurse’s role will be to provide information and support to men newly diagnosed with prostate cancer. The optimal strategy for managing prostate cancer is often unclear and therefore the patient’s own values and attitudes play a role in determining treatment choices. Radical treatment risks continence issues and damage to sexual function, which may be unacceptable risks for some men, particularly those with low risk disease. Other men may feel that these potential side effects are of no significance when faced with the prospect of living with cancer. In these circumstances, shared decision making is viewed as essential to ensure patients are sufficiently informed, and understand the choices they face. Nurse Specialists play a crucial part, both in ensuring that patients receive adequate support and information throughout the cancer journey.

As this is a specialist nursing position, it is also anticipated that the nurse participates in the delivery of educational programs specific to prostate cancer. This could take the form of education to other nurses, professional groups or public forums, though there will be some regional variation in demand in accordance to existing service provision in the area. All education delivered should ensure it is unbiased and complies with best practice recommendations.



## **B) COLLABORATIVE AND THERAPEUTIC PRACTICE**

Australian health care is complex with patients often moving between public and private sectors to access cancer services and thus collaborative relationships are required to ensure minimal distress for the patient when accessing care. Additionally, patients from regional and rural areas are further disadvantaged, often having to travel significant distances to access health care and thus require a more coordinated approach. There should be structured links between the patient's own area and major treating centre. The Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurse is an integral part of this process.

The Prostate Cancer Specialist Nursing position involves a high level of direct patient contact and contact with the patient's treating team. As such, the Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurse should possess, and be able to demonstrate advanced communication skills in both the patient and in the multi-disciplinary health contexts.

In order to deliver this effective function, the Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurse requires a collaborative approach to working effectively as part of the multi-disciplinary team across the care continuum. The Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurse position is interdependent with other health professionals and organisations and the establishment of partnerships is critical to its success.

## **C) PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE**

There are three key elements of professional practice for the Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurse:

1. Professional development at a systems level
2. Monitoring performance
3. Legislative requirements

### **i) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AT A SYSTEMS LEVEL**

The Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurse should demonstrate and understand both national and global influences on prostate cancer and how these impact on service delivery at both a patient and organisational policy level. Knowledge of such initiatives is essential for the Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurse who should be actively engaged with both the employing organisation and those affected by cancer, to contribute an expert level of prostate cancer nursing knowledge to practice and service development initiatives.

### **ii) MONITORING PERFORMANCE**

The ongoing monitoring of performance will be the responsibility of the employing organisation.

The Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurse is expected to practice in accordance with professional and organisational role descriptions, guidelines and standards for specialist cancer nursing and cancer care.

The Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurse should demonstrate a commitment to maintaining competence through participation in professional development activities relevant to their position and this should be supported by a professional development plan, agreed by both the Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurse and employing organisation.

# PRACTICE FRAMEWORK FOR THE SPECIALIST NURSE IN PROSTATE CANCER CARE

*(continued)*

It is suggested that a formal professional development plan be formulated no later than eight weeks from commencement in position of the post holder and revised as per plan, but not exceeding a 12 month period.

The Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurse is also expected to participate in clinical supervision and peer-review process as required by their host employer.

## **iii) LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS**

The Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurse should practice in accordance with legislative, professional and ethical standards for nursing and cancer care. At all times, the post holder should comply with local policy and with legislation relevant to cancer. The Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurse should be aware of and respond effectively to ethical issues that arise in prostate cancer care and practices in a way that acknowledges the impact of cancer on the culture, dignity, values, beliefs and rights of people affected by cancer.

## **D) CRITICAL THINKING AND ANALYSIS**

### **i) QUALITY IMPROVEMENT AND RESEARCH**

The Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurse should demonstrate the skills and values of critical reflection and lifelong learning to generate knowledge for practice. The Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurse should contribute to quality improvement activities aimed at improving outcomes for people affected by cancer, based on identified needs of the client group or the employing organisation as part of their professional development activity. Examples of quality improvement activities include the

contribution to the development of standards and guidelines for cancer nursing practice, and measuring against established benchmarks. In addition the Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurse should identify opportunities for, and contribute to cancer research within their own area of practice.

### **ii) EVIDENCE BASED PRACTICE**

The Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurse should embrace continuing professional development to ensure practice that incorporates best available evidence and emerging developments in prostate cancer care. This includes the identification, critique and application of prostate cancer and nursing research when planning and implementing programs of care for men with prostate cancer. The Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurse should be aware of available resources and know how to access these resources to develop their knowledge of specialist prostate cancer nursing. In addition, the Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurse should have access to the necessary information technology, and possess the relevant IT proficiency to be able to meet this requirement.

### **iii) EDUCATION OF OTHERS**

The Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurse, in addition to a patient education function, should contribute to the development and delivery of educational programs and staff development activities within their area of practice based on identified needs. The Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurse should be available to provide advice and professional support to nursing colleagues and take an active role in disseminating information about research and other developments in prostate cancer care to nursing colleagues and others involved in cancer care.

# 2. COMPETENCY STANDARDS FOR THE PROSTATE CANCER SPECIALIST NURSE

## BACKGROUND

There are an increasing number of nurses in Australia who identify themselves as practicing at a specialist level in cancer care. Despite the provision of post graduate specialist education within many university schools and health campuses, there is no credentialing system for specialty practice in nursing, beyond Midwifery and Nurse Practitioner level. There is also no requirement for a nurse working at an advanced level of practice to hold a post graduate qualification in the relevant field of practice. This lack of a nationally recognised credentialing system further adds to the complexity of establishing a framework for the Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurse.

The Competency Standards described in this document are based on the competency standards for the specialist cancer nurse as detailed in the National Cancer Nursing Education Project (EdCaN) and have been adapted for application in the prostate cancer nursing context.

# COMPETENCY STANDARDS FOR THE PROSTATE CANCER SPECIALIST NURSE

## 1. PROVISION AND CO-ORDINATION OF CARE

Provision and co-ordination of care includes the assessment, planning, implementation, and evaluation of care for people affected by cancer, and consists of these four practice dimensions:

- Disease and treatment related care
- Supportive care
- Co-ordinated care
- Information provision and education

Disease and Treatment Related Care Competency Standards	Performance Criteria
Participates in activities that contribute to reducing the risk of developing cancer and that promote early detection of cancer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrates knowledge of risk factors, genetics and prevention strategies</li> <li>• Demonstrates knowledge of and application of evidence-based information on current PSA testing policy</li> </ul>
Identifies potential and actual adverse effects of having cancer and receiving cancer therapies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrates an understanding of the biology and pathophysiology of prostate cancer, its diagnosis and presentation across the disease continuum</li> <li>• Demonstrates an understanding of the rationale for and mechanisms involved in prostate cancer therapies and their related clinical effects, both acute and delayed</li> <li>• Demonstrates an understanding of the implications of participation in cancer clinical trials</li> <li>• Demonstrates advanced assessment skills showing an awareness of potential effects and complications arising from having prostate cancer, diagnostic tests and cancer treatments</li> <li>• Demonstrates advanced knowledge of survivorship issues and therapeutic options for men following treatment for prostate cancer</li> </ul>
Participates in the safe and effective management of cancer and the delivery of cancer treatments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrates knowledge of and adherence to treatment protocols and clinical guidelines for all prostate cancer treatments, including non-pharmacological treatments</li> <li>• Demonstrates safe and effective use of clinical procedures and technologies in the provision of optimum care related to prostate cancer treatment and palliation</li> </ul>

Supportive Care Competency Standards	Performance Criteria
<p>Identifies, validates and prioritises potential and actual health needs across all domains of health of the person affected by cancer across the continuum of cancer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Demonstrates an understanding of the impact of cancer and its treatment on the interrelated physical, psychological, financial, social, sexual and spiritual aspects of wellbeing of the person affected by prostate cancer</li> <li>▪ Demonstrates a knowledge of potential needs of men with prostate cancer, including co-morbid conditions, psychosocial and supportive care needs across the cancer continuum</li> <li>▪ Demonstrated ability in communicating and appropriate use of referral pathways within the multi-disciplinary team</li> </ul>
<p>Effectively provides and ensures access to a range of supportive care services and interventions to meet the multiple health needs of the person affected by cancer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Demonstrates comprehensive knowledge and application of clinical and supportive care guidelines and evidence in the context of prostate cancer</li> <li>▪ Demonstrates skilled use of therapeutic nursing interventions for meeting the physical, psychological, social, sexual and spiritual needs of the person affected by prostate cancer throughout the disease continuum, including identification of the need for referral for additional support</li> </ul>
Co-ordinated Care Competency Standard	Performance Criteria
<p>Co-ordinates implementation of care across different phases of the cancer journey and across health care settings to facilitate continuity of care and effective use of health care resources relevant to the needs of the person affected by cancer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Demonstrates ability to develop, implement, document and continuously review a comprehensive care plan and applies interventions to promote continuity of care</li> <li>▪ Demonstrates knowledge and application of information and resources to enable continuity of care</li> <li>▪ Demonstrates a comprehensive knowledge of and appropriate referral to health services and community resources</li> <li>▪ Demonstrates ability to communicate with service providers in various care contexts to facilitate the delivery of services in a co-ordinated, consistent and timely manner</li> </ul>

# COMPETENCY STANDARDS FOR THE PROSTATE CANCER SPECIALIST NURSE

(continued)

## 1. PROVISION AND CO-ORDINATION OF CARE (continued)

Information Provision and Education Competency Standard	Performance Criteria
<p>Provides comprehensive and specialised information and education in a co-ordinated manner to assist people affected by cancer to achieve optimal health outcomes, reduce distress and make informed decisions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Demonstrates ability to assess the patient's understanding of their disease and treatment options</li><li>▪ Demonstrates advanced communication skills to provide information, taking into account the individual preferences and responses of the person affected by cancer</li><li>▪ Demonstrates comprehensive knowledge of information resources for the person affected by cancer and facilitates access to resources relevant to their needs and preferences</li><li>▪ Demonstrates collaboration with other members of the health care team to ensure a co-ordinated and documented approach to providing information</li><li>▪ Demonstrates awareness and application of evidence-based educational interventions to assist people affected by cancer to develop knowledge to manage their health needs</li></ul>

## 2. COLLABORATIVE AND THERAPEUTIC PRACTICE

Competency Standards	Performance Criteria
<p>Develops therapeutic relationships with people affected by cancer to anticipate and meet their multiple care needs across the cancer continuum</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Demonstrates and applies effective communication skills to establish and maintain therapeutic relationships with people affected by cancer throughout the cancer journey</li> <li>▪ Demonstrates ability to explore and document preferences and decisions of the person affected by cancer</li> <li>▪ Demonstrates techniques used to encourage person affected by cancer to participate in care decisions and self-management of their health needs</li> <li>▪ Demonstrates techniques used to collaborate with the person affected by cancer in care planning and implementation to establish therapeutic goals consistent with the person's needs and decisions</li> </ul>
<p>Initiates and ensures ongoing improvements in collaborative relationships with the person affected by cancer and other members of the health care team to optimise health outcomes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Demonstrates a comprehensive understanding of the roles of the various members of the interdisciplinary team in achieving optimal outcomes for people affected by cancer</li> <li>▪ Demonstrates effective team participation in planning and implementing strategies to meet the needs of the person affected by cancer.</li> <li>▪ Demonstrates use of evidence-based communication strategies</li> <li>▪ Demonstrates advanced communication skills at both the patient and multidisciplinary level</li> </ul>

# COMPETENCY STANDARDS FOR THE PROSTATE CANCER SPECIALIST NURSE

(continued)

## 3. PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

Competency Standards	Performance Criteria
<p>Engages in and contributes to informed critique and exerts influence at the professional and systems level of health and prostate cancer care</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Demonstrates an understanding of national and global trends in prostate cancer control</li> <li>▪ Demonstrates an understanding of the impact of health and organisational policy on the delivery of prostate cancer services</li> <li>▪ Demonstrates active participation in initiatives within the workplace, professional groups, consumer groups and other organisations relevant to cancer nursing and prostate cancer care</li> </ul>
<p>Uses appropriate mechanisms for monitoring own performance and competence</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Demonstrates awareness of and observes boundaries of practice in accordance with professional and organisational role descriptions, guidelines and standards for specialist cancer nursing and cancer care</li> <li>▪ Demonstrates a commitment to maintaining competence through participation in professional development activities relevant to cancer care</li> <li>▪ Demonstrates participation in professional clinical supervision and/or other peer-review processes</li> <li>▪ Demonstrates participation in performance review processes</li> </ul>
<p>Practices in accordance with legislative, professional and ethical standards for nursing and cancer care</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Demonstrates compliance with legislation relevant to cancer</li> <li>▪ Demonstrates knowledge of and how to respond effectively to ethical issues that arise in cancer care</li> <li>▪ Demonstrates practice in a way that acknowledges the impact of cancer on the culture, dignity, values, beliefs and rights of people affected by cancer</li> </ul>



## 4. CRITICAL THINKING AND ANALYSIS

Competency Standards	Performance Criteria
<p>Contributes to quality improvement activities aimed at improving outcomes for people affected by cancer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shows evidence of assessment of cancer care outcomes against established benchmarks, standards and guidelines</li> <li>• Shows evidence of contribution to activities that improve safety and cancer care outcomes</li> <li>• Demonstrates the skills and values of critical reflection and lifelong learning to generate knowledge for practice</li> </ul>
<p>Practices within an evidence-based framework and contributes to the development of evidence for practice</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrates ability to appraise and apply research evidence relevant to improve the health outcomes of people affected by cancer</li> <li>• Demonstrates high level skills in the use of information technology relevant to cancer nursing and the development of practice</li> <li>• Demonstrates contribution to cancer nursing research</li> </ul>
<p>Embraces continuing professional development to ensure practices that incorporate best available evidence and emerging developments in specialist cancer nursing and cancer care</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrates awareness of sources to seek additional information when presented with complex or challenging situations</li> <li>• Demonstrates awareness of emerging developments in the practice of specialist cancer nursing</li> <li>• Demonstrates knowledge of relevant professional development resources and activities in specialist cancer nursing</li> </ul>
<p>Provides advice and mentorship to nursing colleagues and others involved in cancer care to promote optimal standards</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrates evidence of contribution to education and staff development activities relevant to cancer care</li> <li>• Demonstrates evidence of advice and professional support to nursing colleagues and others involved in cancer care about clinical management and professional issues in cancer nursing</li> <li>• Demonstrates evidence of the dissemination of information on developments in cancer care to nursing colleagues and others involved in cancer care</li> </ul>





PCFA Prostate Cancer Specialist Nursing Service Induction,  
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