The role of specialist nurses in the care of women with gynaecological cancer in Australia

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Overview

- Background to this study
- Review of the literature
- Aims of the study & research questions
- Methods
- Data Collection – survey, focus groups & interviews
- Potential outcomes of the study
- Your participation
Background

- My experience: Funding cut for specialist nurse role.

- Little evidence to support the specialist nurse role in gynaecological oncology.

- The role was largely supported by the body of evidence pertaining to the specialist breast nurse role.
Background

- Clinical nurse consultant, specialist cancer nurse, cancer care coordinator, liaison nurse, gynaecological cancer clinical nurse specialist, nurse navigator, Fast track nurse…….

- Important part of MDT, YET
  - role definition
  - guidelines for practice
  - competency standards
  - minimum education or experience

- Specialist breast nurse (SBN) - model of care 15 years & competency standards & minimum education requirements 10 years!

Does this matter?? If the roles exist and women are getting looked after?
Statement of problem

- No formal definition of the role

- Scope of practice is largely specified by employing organisation (or the nurse themselves)

- Only informal opportunities evaluate / benchmark care.

*No standardised approach to specialist nursing care of women with gynaecological cancer in Australia or New Zealand.*
Statement of problem

- Need to better define the role in order to:
  - Develop practice guidelines
  - Measure and evaluate service provision
  - Develop education / career pathways
  - Promotion of role – internal and external
  - Ensure access and equity for women

- HOW? – Consult key stakeholders – women, treatment team & specialist nurses
What does the literature say?

Quantitative review

Qualitative review

(Cook, McIntyre & Recocche, 2015)

(Cook, McIntyre, Lee & Recoche, 2015)

= Women’s perspective of specialist nursing care
Quantitative systematic review - findings

Effect of specialist nursing interventions on QOL, satisfaction with care and psychological outcomes for women with gynaecological cancer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Results</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>QOL</td>
<td>4/6 studies showed positive effect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satisfaction with care</td>
<td>3/3 studies showed positive effect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychological outcomes</td>
<td>3/6 studies showed positive effect (uncertainty, body image, coping)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domains of care</td>
<td>Studies covering <em>all</em> domains of care were most effective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timing, frequency or duration,</td>
<td>Varied results</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>intensity and modes of delivery of care.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Qualitative systematic review - findings

*Gynaecological cancer patients’ experience of specialist nursing care*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Synthesised Finding</th>
<th>Categories</th>
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</table>
| **Tailored care**: understanding and meeting individual needs | • Source of support and information  
• Assessment of needs  
• A close relationship  
• Not constrained by time  
• Pre-empted needs |
| **Accessible Care**: an easily accessed source of knowledge and support. | • Always available  
• Coordination of care  
• Survivorship |
| **Dependable expertise**: trust and reassurance in expertise of specialist nurse | • Trust in the specialist nurse  
• Need for reassurance  
• Clinical expertise |
Systematic review - implications

✓ Women’s perspective of specialist nursing care

▪ Adequate to inform this study

▪ As NO research covering specialist nurses or treatment team perspective it is the current research priority.

▪ Recommendation - seek women’s perspectives in the implementation and evaluation of guidelines for practice or a model of care.
Aims of study

To determine how specialist nurses in Australia and New Zealand contribute to the care of women with gynaecological cancer, and what the role means within the context of gynaecological cancer care in Australia and New Zealand, now and into the future. Specifically this study aims to:

1. Describe what specialist nurses do in their role of caring for women with gynaecological cancer in Australia and New Zealand

2. Determine how specialist nurses and other members of the gynaecological oncology treatment team experience and perceive the specialist nurse role.

3. Make recommendations for practice guidelines or a model of specialist nursing care for women with gynaecological cancer.
Research Questions

1) What activities are conducted by specialist nurse in their care of women with gynaecological cancer?

2) What are the similarities and differences in the way the gynaecological oncology specialist nurse role is practiced throughout Australia and New Zealand?

3) How do members of the gynaecological oncology treatment team experience and perceive the specialist nurse role?

4) How do gynaecological oncology specialist nurses experience and perceive their role?

5) How do gynaecological oncology specialist nurses see their role in the future?

6) What recommendations for practice guidelines or a model of specialist nursing care emerge from the results?
Methods

‘What’ specialist nurses do

- Survey

Experiences and perceptions

- Survey
- Focus groups
- One-on-one/telephone interviews
### Who can be involved?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specialist nurses</th>
<th>Treatment team members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• ‘Supernumery’ patient contact role</td>
<td>Nurse Practitioner, Nurse Manager, Nurse Educator, Registered Nurse, Gynaecological oncologist, Gynaecologist, Medical oncologist, Radiation oncologist, Pathologist, Physiotherapist, Social Worker, Dietician, Occupational Therapist, Psychologist, Researcher.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Many titles: Cancer nurse consultant, specialist cancer nurse, cancer care coordinator, liaison nurse, gynaecological cancer clinical nurse specialist, nurse navigator, fast-track nurse.....</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Not NP</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Aim for ALL specialist nurses in AUS &amp; NZ (n=?)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Aim for 100+</strong></td>
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Convenience sampling, snowballing, purposive sampling to ensure representation/variation
Data Collection

Survey data collection

- Online survey
- Anonymous
- 10-15 mins
- Hand held device or PC
Data Collection

Focus Groups

- Aimed at capturing the specialist nurses’ perceptions and experience of their role and how they see the role in the future
- Already held at ANZGOG & tomorrow 5-6pm, meeting room 8, level 1. Melbourne also in June if required.
- Approx 1 hour

Interviews

- Alternative or in addition to focus group
- Semi-structured, in-person or telephone
- Individual perspective, greater depth
- Approx 30mins-1 hour
Potential Outcomes

Snapshot of gynecological oncology specialist nurse practice in Australia & New Zealand

Recommendations for practice guidelines or model of care

- Standardisation
- Succession planning
- Measurement & Evaluation
- Access & Equity
- Course development
- Promotion
- Career pathway
- Public awareness

MONASH University
15 April 2016 | 17
An invitation to contribute

Complete survey
https://monash
mnhs.qualtrics.
com/SE/?SID=S
V_6YbO8bg6V6
B4bHv

Focus Group participation
http://goo.gl/fo
rms/G5z5FOS
JMz

In-person or telephone interview
http://goo.gl/forms/WAkL
lxYyAS
Invite your colleagues

- Forward your invitation email (with attachments)
- Share the links
- Pass on your brochure
- Encourage participation
Questions??