



MONASH University

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

(Cook, McIntyre & Recoche, 2015)



Qualitative
review

(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.

Variable	Results
QOL	4/6 studies showed positive effect
Satisfaction with care	3/3 studies showed positive effect
Psychological outcomes	3/6 studies showed positive effect (uncertainty, body image, coping)
Domains of care	Studies covering <i>all</i> domains of care were most effective
Timing, frequency or duration, intensity and modes of delivery of care.	Varied results

????????

Qualitative systematic review - findings

Gynaecological cancer patients' experience of specialist nursing care

Synthesised Finding	Categories
Tailored care: understanding and meeting individual needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Always available• Coordination of care• Survivorship
Dependable expertise: trust and reassurance in expertise of specialist nurse	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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



Experiences and
perceptions

- Survey

- Survey
- Focus groups
- One-on-one/telephone interviews

Who can be involved?

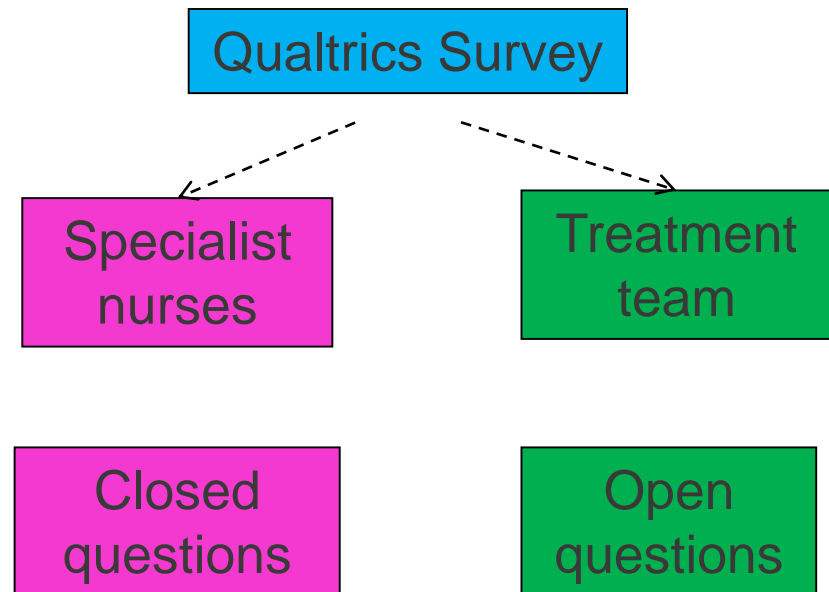
Specialist nurses	Treatment team members
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Supernumerary’ patient contact role • Many titles: Cancer nurse consultant, specialist cancer nurse, cancer care coordinator, liaison nurse, gynaecological cancer clinical nurse specialist, nurse navigator, fast-track nurse..... • Not NP 	<p>Nurse Practitioner , Nurse Manager, Nurse Educator, Registered Nurse, Gynaecological oncologist, Gynaecologist , Medical oncologist, Radiation oncologist, Pathologist, Physiotherapist, Social Worker, Dietician, Occupational Therapist, Psychologist, Researcher.</p>
<p>Aim for ALL specialist nurses in AUS & NZ (n=?)</p>	<p>Aim for 100+</p>

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

Course development

Succession planning

Promotion

Career pathway

Measurement & Evaluation

Public awareness

Access & Equity

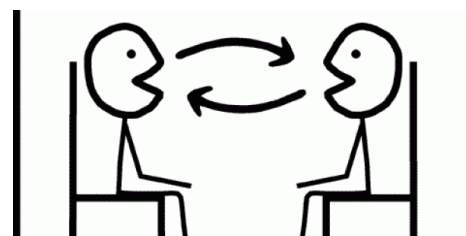
An invitation to contribute



Complete survey
https://monashmnhs.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_6YbO8bg6V6B4bHv



Focus Group participation
<http://goo.gl/forms/G5z5FOSJMz>



In-person or telephone interview
<http://goo.gl/forms/WAkLlxYyAS>



Invite your colleagues

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



Questions??

