



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ONS Foundation Receives Funding for Breast Cancer Quality Initiative

PITTSBURGH, PA—November 24, 2009—A three-year project that will develop, test, and evaluate quality-of-care measures for patient- and survivor-centered experiences of diverse populations of women with breast cancer can be launched thanks to a \$1.54 million grant that will be distributed to the ONS Foundation over three years from the Breast Cancer Fund of National Philanthropic Trust (NPT). This grant demonstrates the Breast Cancer Fund's continued commitment to the work of the ONS Foundation to improve quality care for people living with breast cancer. The ONS Foundation has received funding in the past from NPT's Breast Cancer Fund, which laid the foundation for the current quality-of-care work. "The ONS Foundation and the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) will be able to contribute significantly to the development of patient-centered quality-of-care measures for people with breast cancer through the funding of this cutting-edge initiative by the Breast Cancer Fund of National Philanthropic Trust," said Paula Rieger, RN, MSN, AOCN[®], FAAN, chief executive officer of ONS.

This grant from the Breast Cancer Fund of NPT will assist the ONS Foundation in enabling ONS to play a lead role in collaborating with healthcare, nursing care, and breast cancer quality care organizations by building on previous ONS initiatives and relationships.

The goals of the multi-year initiative are to develop a process for testing patient- and survivor-centered quality measures and to develop and disseminate education about the use of patient-centered breast cancer quality measures in ambulatory practices to improve safe and effective cancer care.

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Many important quality initiatives exist within the cancer care environment. The work of the ONS Foundation and ONS in this area will contribute a unique perspective—testing of patient-centered symptom assessment and management measures impacted by evidence-based nursing interventions, which will build upon the ONS Putting Evidence into Practice (ONS PEP) initiative.

The ONS Foundation has contracted with the Joint Commission’s Division of Quality Measurement and Research to complete a component of this project. Quality measures focused on the care of patients undergoing active treatment for early-stage breast cancer will undergo reliability and validity testing in 30 to 50 pilot test sites across the country in 2010. Lessons learned during this process will be applied in 2011 to the development and testing of a set of measures focused on the care of patients in the first year of survivorship post-treatment.

In 1981, the ONS Foundation was established to enhance the quality of cancer nursing and care. Since 1982, the ONS Foundation has provided more than \$21 million in funding. The awards include research, education, leadership, academic, lectureships, and career development as well as cancer public education projects and scholarships to the ONS Congress, Institutes of Learning, and Advanced Practice Nursing Conferences. In support of ONS’s mission, the ONS Foundation funds national initiatives to develop, evaluate, and disseminate knowledge in areas critical to the future of oncology nursing. Internationally, the ONS Foundation assists the International Union Against Cancer in its efforts to fund fellowships for nurses from developing countries. To learn more, visit the ONS Foundation Web site at www.onsfoundation.org.

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