



Oncology Nursing Society

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July 1, 2016

Blue Ribbon Panel
National Cancer Moonshot Initiative
National Cancer Institute
9609 Medical Center Drive
Bethesda, MD 20892-9760

RE: Request for Information for Developing the National Cancer Moonshot Initiative

The Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) appreciates the opportunity to provide input into this Request for Information (RFI) for developing the National Cancer Moonshot Initiative. Oncology nurses are on the front lines, implementing prevention, early detection, treatment and symptom management strategies throughout the cancer continuum. As such, we will be the ones working with the patients and their families on all areas under consideration by the Blue Ribbon Panel to ensure the delivery of quality cancer care. We elaborate on our role in certain focus areas below, however we urge the Panel to recognize and consider the important impact oncology nurses will have across the spectrum and to position oncology nurses accordingly in any recommendations made.

Expanding clinical trials

Access to quality cancer care is the right of all people, including access to innovative therapies through clinical trials. Oncology nurses are uniquely positioned to provide education related to clinical trial availability and inclusion. They serve as key translators of medical information to assure informed participation in clinical trials, one of their primary responsibilities.

Enhanced data sharing

Empirical research in oncology nursing focuses on assessment and treatment outcomes, providing critical data to improve the body of knowledge related to cancer care and symptom management. Applied nursing research improves patient lives and decreases morbidity and mortality in cancer care patients.

ONS is engaged in multiple research activities, ONS recently launched its Quality Improvement Registry, a qualified clinical data registry (QCDR) that oncology practices can use to benchmark and improve patient outcomes. A QCDR enables the collection and submission of quality measures data on behalf of eligible professionals, physicians, advanced practice nurses, and other clinicians who can independently bill Medicare. ONS quality measures, developed and tested through a contract with The Joint Commission, supported through a grant to the ONS Foundation by the Breast Cancer Fund of the National Philanthropic Trust, are included in the registry. The data collected through the QCDR will result in important information that will improve the quality of cancer care delivery.

We urge the Panel to consider ways to position the registry for use in the National Cancer Moonshot Initiative. We also urge the Panel to use its position to encourage efforts that would promote interoperability across health information technology systems, which would help link information in the ONS registry and other cancer registries and electronic data collection activities, which continue to be a barrier to most data sharing opportunities.

Precision, prevention and early detection

Oncology nurses' preventive focus assures a holistic assessment of public needs, to include assessment of potential for disparities, educational and language barriers, cultural and spiritual concerns, and other patient-specific needs that impact awareness of, access to, and participation in preventive care strategies. Oncology nurses are uniquely educated to provide comprehensive education regarding preventive strategies and early detection modalities.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit comments on the RFI. Should you have any questions regarding our comments, please contact Alec Stone, MA, MPA, ONS Director of Health Policy, at astone@ons.org. We look forward to engaging in an ongoing dialogue to address issues of importance to our cancer patients.

Sincerely,

The Oncology Nursing Society

About the Oncology Nursing Society

ONS is a professional organization of over 39,000 registered nurses and other health care providers dedicated to excellence in patient care, education, research, and administration in oncology nursing. ONS members are a diverse group of professionals who represent a variety of roles, practice settings, and subspecialties. Our nurses are leaders in the health care arena, committed to continuous learning and leading the transformation of cancer treatment by advocating for high-quality care for people with cancer.