



EONS News

TARGET: Helping European Oncology Nurses Keep Abreast of Treatment Advances

TARGET—EONS's exciting new educational initiative is progressing well and is on track to meeting its goal of enhancing European oncology nurses' understanding of the role and relevance of the Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor (EGFR) in cancer care. There are a number of key steps in the development of the TARGET programme:

1. Delineate European oncology nurses' learning needs in relation to EGFR.
2. Develop a course based on oncology nurses' learning needs and expert opinion.
3. Pilot the TARGET course in a number of European countries.
4. Modify course materials and format based on feedback from pilot testing.
5. Organise a TARGET train the Trainer course.
6. Make TARGET courses available across Europe.

The learning needs assessment has been completed. A survey to investigate the educational needs of European oncology nurses in relation to EGFR and evaluate European oncology nurses' knowledge about EGFR inhibitors was carried out between March and April 2005. A total of 182 oncology nurses from France, Germany, Spain, Italy, UK, and the Netherlands with experience caring for patients receiving novel targeted therapies completed the survey. The findings showed that nurses are interested in learning more about targeted therapies but that significant knowledge deficits exist. The learning needs assessment has proved to be an invaluable tool in highlighting the topics that require the greatest attention and input within the TARGET course.

The TARGET course will consist of 6.5 student contact hours and include sessions on

- Molecular biology of cancer.
- What is the EGFR and why target this for cancer therapy?
- EGFR inhibitors.
- Nursing considerations for patients receiving EGFR inhibitors.
- Support for patients with advanced cancer.
- Writing and implementing a dissemination plan.

Before attending a TARGET course participants will be asked to undertake some pre-course work with the aim of revising/updating their basic knowledge about cell biology. As with EONS's other successful educational programme—TITAN—participants will be asked to complete a dissemination project in the 6-month period following the TARGET course.

This course format and the draft TARGET materials will be tested in pilot courses that will be held in Belgium, Germany and the UK between October 2005 and January 2006. Please contact the national oncology nursing society in these countries if you are interested in participating in a TARGET pilot course (contact details are available on the EONS website at www.cancerworld.org).

Materials will be revised in the light of feedback from the pilot courses and the final version of the materials will be used during the TARGET Train the Trainer course that will be held in May or June 2006. The purpose of the Train the Trainer course is to prepare TARGET Trainers—experienced oncology nurses from all over Europe who will be asked to give a commitment to running at least one TARGET course in their own country. Further details about the TARGET Training the Trainer course and an application form will be available at ECCO-13 and posted on the EONS website in November 2005.

European implementation of the course will take place from June 2006 onwards. If you are interested in learning more about the TARGET project please contact EONS President Jan Foubert at jan.foubert@skynet.be

TARGET is supported by an unrestricted grant from Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany

From curriculum to accreditation: assessing educational quality

EONS accreditation is not only a means to endorse a product but also a process to evaluate quality and educational relevance for cancer nurses providing a professional credibility. Over the past 5 years there have been over 22 long and short courses accredited by EONS. This year the educational group at EONS undertook a review of currently accredited courses. This was to explore how many nurses were receiving professional development using EONS accredited programmes and to explore how competencies and educational credits were being utilised within the different countries of Europe.

Background

There have been many changes in treatment of cancer that are now reflected in multi-modality therapy and new ways of managing cancer in different care settings. This has required a new way of looking at the cancer post-basic curriculum and in the revised framework changes have been made not only to reflect new thinking in oncology but also to reflect educational change. The developments within education have been quite dramatic in the last 5 years with the advent of the Bologna declaration of 1999 and the subsequent changes in academic and vocational educational structures within Europe which are planned to be complete by 2010. There are nine action lines for education:

- Adoption of a system of easily readable and comparable degrees.
- Adoption of a two cycle education system (Degree, Masters).
- Establishment of a credit system.
- Promotion of mobility.
- Promotion of European cooperation in quality assurance.
- Promotion of the European dimension of higher education.
- Lifelong learning.
- Higher education institutions and students.

- Promoting the attractiveness of the European higher education system.

The impact of these changes on vocational courses is that learning outcomes and competencies for practice need to be more clearly defined and that therefore credits are attached to length of study and learning outcome. These credits are then transferable across countries increasing mobility and transferability of qualifications. There is still much work to be done in developing educational structures but these changes need to be reflected in future nursing curriculum and professional development.

Method

A questionnaire was sent to course leaders of accredited programmes asking about the cohort of 2004/5. A total of 15 questionnaires were sent with 11 returns (73%). The questionnaire asked about course cohorts and numbers plus current pass rates, deferrals, and credits. Questions asked about whether external review and student evaluation was undertaken and if there were changes to the current programme.

Results

Although many of the questionnaires were incomplete as information was not available at the time of review, the course leaders gave an interesting picture of the cancer courses and developments ongoing within nursing. Over 500 nurses undertook EONS accredited professional development in 2004/5, 305 within courses based on the cancer nursing curriculum and 234 on specialised subject education.

Table of responses

Areas	Number (n = 11)	Percentage
Use of local Educational Credits	2	18
Use of ECT credits	1	9
External examiners	11	100
Evaluation and feedback from students	11	100
Assess clinical performance or competence	1	9

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/9926683>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/9926683>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)