



Professional Standardization to Support Sustainability

Elizabeth Franklin, PhD, MSW

Prevent Cancer Foundation

Virtual Advocacy Workshop

March 6, 2024



Biden Cancer Initiative

BCI was created in 2017 in response to “the lack of a cohesive, comprehensive, and timely approach to cancer prevention, detection, diagnosis, research, and care.”

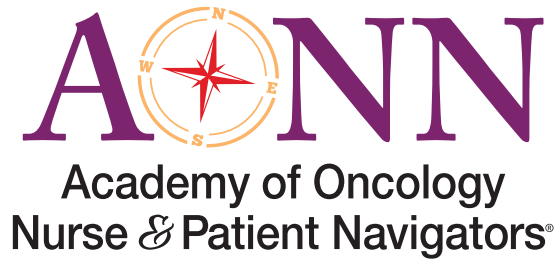
Patient Navigation Working Group:

Focused on identifying barriers and implementing solutions to facilitate more widespread use of patient navigation to improve patient care and outcomes.

Determined that the biggest challenges facing the profession centered around a lack of foundational definitions and standardization.




Professional Oncology Navigation Task Force (PONT)





Navigation Background

- 1989 “Report to the Nation on Cancer in the Poor” defines barriers to care
- Patient navigation emerged as a strategy to improve outcomes by eliminating those barriers to care
- 1990 the first patient navigation program was initiated by Dr. Harold Freeman in Harlem, NY
- 2005 American Cancer Society launched patient navigator program
- 2009 AONN+ founded
- 2010 ONS, AOSW, NASW joint position on the role of Oncology Nursing & Oncology Social Work in Patient Navigation
- 2013 ONS published Oncology Nurse Navigator (ONN) Core Competencies



Need for Standards of Professional Practice

*These standards are intended to provide **guidance** and may be applied differently, as appropriate, in different settings*

After 3 decades, standards of practice do not exist

Provides clinical oncology navigators and patient navigators with clear information regarding the standards of professional practice

Guidance regarding the knowledge & skills all professional navigators should possess to deliver high-quality, competent, and ethical services

Provides benchmarks for healthcare employers

Information for policy & decision makers to understand the role of the professional oncology navigator

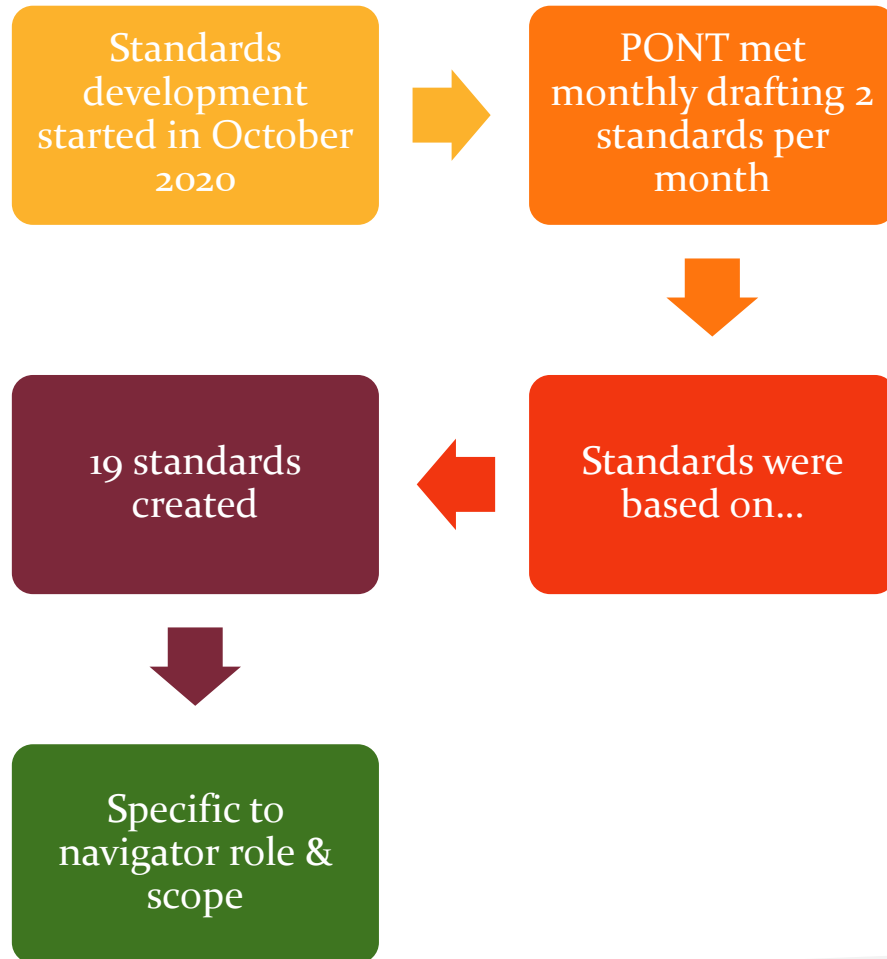


Goals of the Standards

- Enhance the quality of professional navigation services
- Advocate with and on behalf of cancer patients, survivors, families, and caregivers
- Encourage navigator participation in the creation, implementation, and evaluation of best practices and quality improvement in oncology care
- Promote navigator participation in the development, analysis, and refinement of public policy at all levels
- To best support the interests of people impacted by cancer and to protect and promote the profession of navigation
- Educate all stakeholders about the essential role of navigators in oncology systems



Development of the Standards



- **The team was partnered by role & scope:**
- **Clinical Nurse Navigators:**
 - Susie Burke, Danelle Johnston, Brenda Nevidjon
- **Clinical Social Work Navigator:**
 - Elizabeth Franklin
- **Patient Navigators:**
 - Lisa Simms Booth, Monica Dean

Definitions



Oncology
Navigation



Professiona
l Navigator



Clinical
Navigators:
Oncology
Nurse
Navigator



Clinical
Navigators:
Social Work
Navigator



Patient
Navigator



Patient



Standards Snapshot

The Oncology Navigation Standards of Professional Practice identify best practices in order to promote a high level of navigation quality. They are intended to serve as **guidance** for professional practice (regardless of setting). Exceptions to the Standards may be necessary and should be determined on an individual or institutional basis. The following standards apply to all three types of professional navigators **unless otherwise noted.**



Standards Overview

| Standard | Definition |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Standard 1. Ethics | Oncology navigators practice ethically <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ethical Responsibilities to Clients• Boundaries• Competence• Conflicts of Interest• Privacy and Confidentiality |
| Standard 2. Qualifications | Oncology navigators obtain the necessary education, licensure, and/or certification for their position <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scope• Education• Licensure• Training and Continuing Education |



Standards Overview

| Standard | Definition |
|--|---|
| Standard 3. Knowledge | Oncology navigators have (and continue to seek) knowledge that reflects current navigation practice |
| Standard 4. Cultural and Linguistic Humility | Oncology navigators practice in a manner that is culturally and linguistically humble and inclusive |
| Standard 5. Interdisciplinary and Interorganizational Collaboration | Oncology navigators collaborate with patients and their loved ones and all members of the healthcare team |
| Standard 6. Communication | Oncology navigators communicate effectively in all areas of practice |
| Standard 7. Professional Development | Oncology navigators seek professional development to ensure up-to-date practice knowledge |



Standards Overview

| Standard | Definition |
|---|---|
| Standard 8. Supervision | When tasked with supervision, oncology navigators provide high-quality supervision to others in the professional setting |
| Standard 9. Mentorship and Leadership | Oncology navigators lead within the professional practice setting and the profession |
| Standard 10. Self-Care | Oncology navigators practice self-care principles to support their own physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual health and to reduce stress, mitigate compassion fatigue, secondary trauma, and burnout |
| Standard 11. Prevention, Screening, and Assessment | Oncology navigators provide community awareness and education on cancer prevention, screening, and assessment to communities served |



Standards Overview

| Standard | Definition |
|--|--|
| Standard 12. Treatment, Care Planning, and Intervention | Oncology navigators provide support and information to patients and caregivers to navigate through all phases of active cancer treatment |
| Standard 13. Psychosocial Assessment and Intervention | Oncology navigators assess, assist, and/or provide clinical services to best support the psychosocial needs of patients and caregivers throughout the cancer continuum |
| Standard 14. Survivorship | Oncology navigators prepare for, assess, and provide support to address the survivorship care needs of cancer patients |
| Standard 15. End of Life | Oncology navigators prepare for, assess, and provide support to address the end-of-life needs of cancer patients |



Standards Overview

| Standard | Definition |
|---|--|
| Standard 16. Advocacy | Oncology navigators advocate with and on behalf of patients, survivors, families, and caregivers in order to address their needs and goals |
| Standard 17. Operational Management | Oncology navigators understand organizational structure and advocate for the navigation role to improve patient experiences and outcomes |
| Standard 18. Practice Evaluation and Quality Improvement | Oncology navigators routinely evaluate overall navigation programs and contribute to quality improvement initiatives and efforts |
| Standard 19. Evidence-Based Care | Oncology navigators contribute to the knowledge and evidence base and integrate evidence and research findings into their practice |



Original Article

Solidifying roles, responsibilities, and the process of navigation across the continuum of cancer care: The Professional Oncology Navigation Task Force

Elizabeth F. Franklin, PhD, MSW¹, Monica S. Dean, HON-OPN-CG², Danelle M. Johnston, MSN, RN, HON-ONN-CG, OCN¹, Brenda M. Nevidjon, MSN, RN, FAAN³, Susie L. Burke, RN, MA, CPNP⁴, and Lisa M. Simms Booth, BA⁵

Since its founding in 1990, the profession of oncology navigation has grown and evolved. Although core concepts serve as a unifying thread throughout the profession, there has not been formal agreement on standardization of definitions, scopes, and roles for the various types of navigators. This has created challenges for sustainability, including reimbursement for navigation services. Emerging from the Biden Cancer Initiative's patient navigation working group, the Professional Oncology Navigation Task Force was created to serve as the voice of professional oncology organizations with an ultimate goal of solidifying definitions, scopes, and roles of navigators across the care continuum. Task group members are committed to cross-disciplinary partnership (including nursing, social work, and nonclinically licensed navigation). As the Task Force worked to define, refine, and disseminate professional standards (with input from the navigation community), the work done by the National Navigation Roundtable was vital to our evolving understanding of the profession. This article outlines the importance of that partnership and highlights the relevant findings of each article in this supplement of *Cancer* to the standardization work. *Cancer* 2022;128:2669-2672. © 2022 American Cancer Society.

LAY SUMMARY:

- Within the profession of oncology navigation, definitions, scopes, and roles of navigators have not been solidified.
- Standardization of the profession is critical to allow for continued growth and evolution as well as policy direction.
- This article introduces the work of the Professional Oncology Navigation Task Force, which created the Oncology Navigation Standards of Professional Practice with input from professional leaders and community stakeholders.
- The article also links the work of the National Navigation Roundtable and the critical need to coordinate and amplify efforts across groups.

KEYWORDS: navigation, oncology, profession, responsibilities, roles, standards.

INTRODUCTION

In 2021 alone, almost 1.9 million people are expected to be diagnosed with cancer in the United States, and greater than 600,000 are expected to die from it.¹ The lifetime risk of developing cancer in the United States is approximately 40% for men and approximately 39% for women.² Worldwide, there were greater than 17 million new cancer cases and 9.5 million deaths from cancer in 2018.¹ By 2040, there will be an expected 27.5 million new cancer cases and 16.2 million deaths from cancer.³ The needs of people affected by cancer will continue to be significant, and the urgency of a workforce prepared to support them cannot be overstated. Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the urgency of access to high-quality, affordable health care and the challenges facing society as we seek to address and achieve health equity.

This disease has inspired a War on Cancer, a National Cancer Act, a National Cancer Institute, a President's Panel, and an Executive Branch *Moonshee* to accelerate the progress made against the disease. Continuing the work he began as Vice President during the Obama Administration (and before he took office as President in 2021), Joe Biden created the Biden Cancer Initiative in 2017, responding to the absence of an approach to cancer research, prevention, detection, diagnosis, and care that is comprehensive, cohesive, and timely.³ Biden Cancer Initiative efforts focused on 6 areas, including: 1) clinical trial design and enrollment, 2) data sharing, 3) data standards, 4) prevention, 5) access to care, and 6) patient

Corresponding Author: Elizabeth F. Franklin, PhD, MSW, Cancer Support Community, 5614 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 280, Washington, DC 20015 (efranklin@cancersupportcommunity.org).

¹Cancer Support Community, Washington, District of Columbia; ²Academy of Oncology Nurse and Patient Navigators, Cranbury, New Jersey; ³Oncology Nursing Society, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; ⁴Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses, Chicago, Illinois; ⁵Smith Center for Healing and the Arts, Washington, District of Columbia

We acknowledge the work of the Biden Cancer Initiative in launching the patient navigation working group that became the Professional Oncology Navigation Task Force. We thank and gratefully acknowledge the support of partnering organizations that share a commitment to reducing disparities and the American Cancer Society for their dedication to patient navigation and the National Navigation Roundtable (NNRT). The National Navigation Roundtable is a collaboration of navigation stakeholders and field experts dedicated to establishing patient navigation as a recognized and valued part of the health care system to assure optimal health outcomes for cancer patients. Thank you to the steering committee of the NNRT for helping lead the direction of this supplement and the hundreds of organizations and patient navigators who provided input and time to help inform this supplement.

DOI: 10.1002/cncr.34095. Received: March 14, 2021; Revised: December 1, 2021; Accepted: December 2, 2021. Published online June 14, 2022 in Wiley Online Library (wileyonlinelibrary.com)



Next Steps

- Review every 5 years (unless landscape shifting event)
- Opportunity for ongoing engagement
- Application of Standards educational opportunities

For more information: Elizabeth.franklin@sanofi.com