A Nursing Workforce Program to Advance Knowledge and Skills for Nurses Implementing Cancer Clinical Research

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Clinical nursing research is an emerging subspecialty that enhances nursing expertise. In an effort to provide a basic educational curriculum on cancer research and clinical trials, a major academic cancer center launched a novel program titled Clinical Research Nursing Grand Rounds that allowed nurses to receive continuing education units. The purpose of the current article is to describe the development and content of the education model, challenges encountered, and implications for oncology nursing education, practice, and research.

Developing the Module

The development, implementation, and evaluation of the current pilot effort were conducted in three steps: establishing the need, developing the content and applying for Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) credit, and evaluating the outcomes.

Establishing the Need

A baseline survey was distributed to all nurses at Roswell Park Cancer Institute to determine if nurses expressed a need for educational programs related to clinical research and its application. The nurses' feedback indicated an interest existed in obtaining additional education on clinical research. Nurses identified specific topics that included implementation of a clinical research study, the role of the nurse and the clinical research coordinator, and documentation procedures for documenting and tracking patient participation in clinical trials.