The healthcare landscape is changing, and oncology nurses need to adopt an evidence-based approach to oncology care. Nurses must identify the skills needed to integrate critical thinking into their practice. Nurses can apply these skills to influence others to adopt a similar approach.

### Key Points...

- The healthcare landscape is changing, and oncology nurses have the opportunity to expand their sphere of influence.
- A commitment must be made to adopt an evidence-based approach to oncology care.
- Nurses must identify the skills needed to integrate critical thinking into their practice.
- Nurses can apply these skills to influence others to adopt a similar approach.

### Evidence-Based Practice

The first step in creating an evidence-based practice is to accept the fact that the evolving healthcare environment will require oncology nurses to rethink and retool their approach to delivering care. Rather than resisting change, the focus should be on finding the opportunities inherent in this evolving system. In the introduction to a text on healthcare leadership and change, Collins (1999) offered four guidelines that oncology nurses can use to integrate change.

- Clearly define and then preserve core purposes and values (i.e., the core values of oncology nursing). Although many things must change, be clear about the essential contributions of nursing. Retain these core values while adopting new approaches and roles.
- Do not limit possibilities by confining the range of choices to nonnegotiable black-and-white decisions. Although change often is viewed as a choice between opposing forces,