E
evidence-based practice is a concept that has become
integral in today’s healthcare system. Nurses must be
able to provide care to patients and families that is based
on the best available evidence so they can potentiate the
best possible patient outcomes. According to Rutledge and Grant
(2002), evidence-based practice “defines care that integrates
best scientific evidence with clinical expertise, knowledge of
pathophysiology, knowledge of psychosocial issues, and decision
making preferences of patients” (p. 1). Evidence-based practice
is unique because it includes the preferences and values of pa-
tients and their families in the process. Although clinicians may
use the best evidence available, application and outcomes will
differ based on patients’ values, concerns, expectations, and/or
preferences.

The journey of the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) to im-
prove the quality of oncology care and to integrate evidence-
based practice into care has reached a new milestone. ONS has
developed a resource to help oncology nurses use evidence in
their practices, improving nursing-sensitive patient outcomes
(NSPOs). NSPOs are outcomes that are attained through or are
significantly impacted by nursing interventions. The interven-
tions must be within the scope of nursing practice and integral
to the processes of nursing care (Given et al., 2004). NSPOs rep-
resent the consequences or effects of nursing interventions and
result in changes in patients’ symptom experience, functional
status, safety, psychological distress, and/or healthcare costs.

Who really cares if patients achieve the desired outcome? Many
stakeholders in today’s healthcare arena look at patient outcome
data, including patients themselves, insurers of care, providers of
care, legislators, purchasers, and regulators of health care. All of
the stakeholders want to know whether patient care has value.

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The Oncology Nursing Society Putting
Evidence Into Practice Resources

The new product line that ONS has developed to improve
NSPOs through evidence-based practice has been titled Putting
Evidence Into Practice (PEP) and is the culmination of several

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