

A National Professional Development Framework for Cancer Nursing in Aotearoa New Zealand

Name of organisation providing feedback:	Nurses for a Smokefree Aotearoa/New Zealand
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Nurses for a Smokefree Aotearoa/New Zealand

Nurses for a Smokefree Aotearoa/New Zealand supports nurse work to reduce death and disease caused by tobacco. It is composed of nurses from New Zealand's four major ethnic groups, hospital and community health services, mental health services, nurse academics and researchers, the New Zealand Nurses Organisation, the College of Nurses' Aotearoa, National Council of Maori Nurses, the College of Mental Health Nurses, Pacific Nurses Association, and the North and South Islands. More than 50 nurses have come forward in support of the group so far.

We thank the Palliative Care and Cancer Nurses Education Group and Ministry of Health for the opportunity to comment on "A National Professional Development Framework for Cancer Nursing in Aotearoa New Zealand". The scope of the framework is admirable, in particular the inclusion of reduction of the incidence of cancer in the purpose. While the framework is very comprehensive in terms of nursing competencies for the sensitive, safe and evidence based treatment of cancer, palliative care and communication with clients and families, we advocate for including specifically including nursing competencies for preventing cancer. This would complete the framework and address references to prevention, health promotion and reduction of the incidence of cancer in the framework document fully.

1. Overall how well does the document describe the nursing skills and knowledge required to provide cancer care (regardless of clinical setting) in terms of the different levels of competency?

Specific evidence-based nursing skills and knowledge to promote health and reduce the incidence of cancer, one of the main purposes of the framework, are omitted from all levels of competency.

2. Please outline any areas of competency that you consider are missing from the document.

We recommend that the framework explicitly includes health promotion competencies to prevent cancer. These should include smoking cessation intervention competencies because:

- smoking is a major cause of cancer (Boyle, Gray, Henningfield, Seffrin, & Zatonski, 2004);
- quitting smoking brings immediate benefits (IARC, 2007);
- there is a lower rate of second primary malignancy in smokers who have successfully quit, compared with those who continue to use tobacco regularly (Garces & Hays, 2003);
- evidence based smoking cessation treatments exist (Ministry of Health, 2008);
- nurse advice is effective in stopping people from smoking (Rice & Stead, 2008);
- smoking cessation interventions are congruent with nurse practice, including nurses working with patients diagnosed with cancer (Griebel, Wewers, & Baker, 1998; Jones & McLaclan, 2006);
- many smokers, including those with cancer, wish to quit (Garces & Hays, 2003; Ministry of Health, 2007a).

The National Professional Development Framework for Cancer Nursing would be strengthened if nurse cancer prevention competencies were congruent with the Ministry of Health framework for integrating the ABC smoking cessation approach into the routine work of all health professionals who have contact with smokers (Martin Jenkins, 2008; Ministry of Health, 2007b). This draft is in the final stages of development. All cancer control nurses would:

- a) **Ask** about smoking status
- b) Provide **Brief** advice to stop smoking to all smokers
- c) Provide evidence-based **Cessation** treatment including cessation aids such as nicotine replacement therapy

Proficient and expert cancer control nurses would provide smoking cessation advice followed up with more advanced smoking cessation management. This is described in Smoking Cessation Competencies for New Zealand (2007).
[http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/pagesmh/6699/\\$File/smoking-cessation-competencies-for-nz.pdf](http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/pagesmh/6699/$File/smoking-cessation-competencies-for-nz.pdf)

3. Please outline how any areas of competency in the document which need to be altered to improve focus or clarity.

Health promotion competencies have been added. See the attached tracked changes version of the text. We have focused on smoking cessation. Skin and breast cancer prevention are also important.

4. If you have specific comments you want to make on the text, please provide these as a tracked changes version of the text.

There are changes and comments in a tracked changes version of the text.

Nurses for a Smokefree Aotearoa/New Zealand is happy to provide a representative, Carleine Receveur, to support the development of health promotion and smoking cessation competencies for nurses within the National Professional Development Framework for Cancer Nursing. Carleine was formerly an oncology nurse. She is now Project Manager Smokefree, Hawkes Bay DHB. Her e-mail address is carleine.receveur@hawkesbaydhb.govt.nz

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