

The processes for review and confirmation of a theoretical model, its translation into current clinical practice, and the evaluation of outcomes will be presented. The authors' experience at the Seattle Cancer Care Alliance in Washington illustrates the value and relevance of theoretical models in oncology care.

AT A GLANCE

- Nursing theoretical models are essential and relevant to the ongoing innovations in oncology nursing care.
- A theoretical model provides a foundational framework to anchor specialized oncology care and nurse identity.
- Nurse-led review of theoretical frameworks to inform nursing practice models can be conducted in any clinical setting.

KEYWORDS

theoretical model of care; oncology nursing; caring; innovation

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Theory-Informed Models

Application to nursing practice

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A theoretical model of care is a foundational framework upon which to build clinical practice and training, while inspiring continual evaluation and innovation. In the context of a National Cancer Institute (NCI)-designated comprehensive cancer center, the authors completed an evaluation of the theoretical underpinnings of oncology nursing practice. The authors present the processes for review and confirmation of the theoretical model, its translation to current clinical practice, and exemplars of integration to practice. The authors' experience at the Seattle Cancer Care Alliance (SCCA) in Washington illustrates the value and relevance of theoretical models in today's oncology care.

Background

Theoretical nursing models have long been a pillar of professional nursing. Most nurses can describe Florence Nightingale's theories encompassing infection prevention and would not dispute the value of her theory in nursing practice. Today, it may be difficult for frontline nurses to articulate the application of nursing models to practice and real-life patient experience and the link between theory and practice (Bender & Feldman, 2015). Models are used widely as a scaffolding for nursing education and practice to motivate approaches and interventions for nursing care (Chaiklin

& Sievert, 2019). Organizational philosophies and models are emphasized for their potential to achieve the highest-quality patient outcomes (Bender & Feldman, 2015). Evidence exists for the value of using a model to guide practice, such as Swanson's (1991) theory of caring.

The SCCA, established in 2001, is an NCI-designated cancer center located in the Pacific Northwest serving more than 9,000 patients annually. In oncology nursing care, the quest for continual clinical innovation has been the standard value in nurse practice; however, the organization lacked a documented, theory-informed nursing practice model. A formal nursing model serves as an instrument by which to set standards for care, inform clinical advancements, and inspire continuous practice innovation. A team of nurses collaborated with nurse leadership to establish a formal model of care for the SCCA. The goal was to honor the distinct institutional history of oncology care, as well as to emphasize the excellence of present-day care delivery and embrace the future trajectory of oncology nursing care.

Methods

A team of seven nurses of diverse ages, specialties, and tenures spent a year working toward the goal to establish a model that honored historic practice and confirmed the current state of nursing practice while also inspiring the unique oncology nursing care of the future. The