

The Development of Cancer Nurse Teaching Initiatives between  
Glasgow and Palestine

**Recommendation**

The NHS Board is asked to:

1. Note the background to the development of cancer nurse teaching initiatives between NHS GG&C and Bethlehem University.
2. Agree to the continued support for the development of the first accredited post graduate cancer training diploma in Palestine.
3. Agree to the annual clinical placements of two Palestine nursing students to the Beatson West of Scotland Cancer Centre.

**1) Background**

- 1.1 One of the consequences of the Palestinian conflict is a paucity of cancer training opportunities for Palestinian oncology nurses and doctors. In March 2012, two oncology clinicians from NHS GG&C visited Palestine to conduct two days oncology teaching at Bethlehem University. Fifty Palestinian delegates (cancer nurses, medics, final year nursing students) attended each day's training. This training included oncology management of breast and lung cancer, safe administration and disposal of cytotoxic agents, assessment of patients undergoing chemotherapy, the role of radiotherapy in the management of lung cancer and symptom control in advanced cancer.

**2) Development of Post Graduate Higher Diploma in Oncology/Palliative Care Nursing**

- 2.1 Following on from the provision of the teaching session by NHS GG&C oncology clinicians in 2012, there has been ongoing dialogue between one of the clinicians (Oncology Clinical Nurse Specialist) and the Dean of Nursing Bethlehem University. This has resulted in the development of a proposal for a post graduate diploma in cancer nursing to be provided by Bethlehem University (Appendix 1). Significant funding to support the development of the diploma has been provided by the UK based charity Medical Aid to Palestine (MAP). It is proposed that the curriculum and course content will be closely based on the curriculum for diploma cancer education developed by the European Oncology Nurse Society (EONS). The EONS curriculum (4<sup>th</sup> Edition 2013) has been utilised successfully by a number of European University Nursing Departments. (Permission to use the EONS curriculum is restricted to EONS affiliated countries. The Palestine Oncology Nurses Society became affiliated in 2014 and therefore has free access to utilise the EONS curriculum).

- 2.2 The course content will encompass the epidemiology and science of cancer, including every aspect of the patient's journey, from diagnosis, treatment options, management of symptoms and psychological support. It is proposed that particular emphasis will be placed on the most common cancers that are prevalent in Palestine.
- 2.3 The diploma will integrate oncology and palliative care ensuring participating nurses on the completion of the course will be better prepared to recognise and respond to the difficult challenges that cancer patients pose, from diagnosis to end of life care.

### **3) Curriculum Delivery**

- 3.1 The Dean of the Nursing Department at Bethlehem University has established links with Scottish oncology nurses and medics and successfully hosted the two day cancer conference at Bethlehem University in 2012.
- 3.2 Teaching resources for the diploma will require input from clinicians and academics from Palestine with some input being provided by clinicians from Scotland (including NHS GG&C) who have expressed an interest in providing support. The oncology nurse specialist from NHS GG&C has committed to return to Palestine annually to contribute to the delivery of the diploma. Staff from NHS GG&C who have expressed an interest in supporting the diploma will do so in their own time however it is anticipated that travel and accommodation costs will be provided through MAP. The use of teleconferencing will also be explored to support the delivery elements of the curriculum.
- 3.3 The co-ordination and management of the diploma will be the responsibility of the Nursing Faculty at Bethlehem University.

### **4) Glasgow City Council Support for Palestinian Nurse Placements**

- 4.1 The City of Glasgow has been twinned with Bethlehem since 2007 however the relationship goes back many years when the Lord Provost signed a friendship agreement with Palestine in 1992. Through this twinning agreement, Glasgow City Council has supported successful projects in arts, culture and education.
- 4.2 The current Lord Provost, would like to expand this to the area of health through the provision of annual funding to support two Palestinian nurses (who would be participating in the Post Graduate Oncology Diploma) to undertake a two week clinical placement within the West of Scotland Cancer Centre. A programme for the clinical placement together with learning outcomes would be agreed with Bethlehem University and the Cancer Centre.

**Rossllyn Crocket**  
**Nurse Director**  
**October 2014**

Bethlehem University

Faculty of Nursing and Life Science

Higher Diploma in Oncology/Palliative Care Nursing

Draft Proposal Sept 2014

**Introduction**

Cancer is a serious challenge to public health in Palestine and is considered the leading cause of death in the Palestine population after cardiovascular and cerebrovascular disease accounting for 11% of all deaths.

The reported figures by MOH (Health Annual Report Palestine 2013) shows remarkable increase in Cancer mortality in West Bank 2013 compared with 2007 and 2010, from (10.3%) in 2007 to (10.8%) in 2010 then increases to reach (13.3 %) from the total deaths in West Bank in 2013. Lung cancer was highest incidence at (17.9 %), Colon cancer (15.2%) and Breast cancer (9.1%).

**Justification for Development of Higher Oncology Nurse Diploma**

Currently no post graduate diploma in cancer care is available to nurses in Palestine. The increased rates of cancer incidence in Palestine is increasing the burden on cancer nurses. Oncology and palliative care is recognized by clinicians and nursing academics as areas of Palestinian health that require increased educational resources at post graduate level. Nurses who can access post graduate diploma education in oncology nursing will positively change delivery of cancer care in Palestine resulting in improved outcomes for the cancer population of Palestine.

**Criteria for Admission**

- Applicants will have a Bachelor in Nursing Degree from a recognized university
- Working (at least in part) with patients diagnosed with cancer
- Have the support and provide references from their employees
- Be committed to excellence in cancer nursing.

## **Time Frame**

Commence Sept 2016 for 4 semesters.

## **Internship**

At the end of the program each student must complete 600 clinical hours.

## **Assessment**

Assessment for each semester incorporates theory and clinical within students clinical placement.

## **Content of the Higher Diploma in Oncology Nursing**

It is proposed that the curriculum and course content of the diploma will be closely based on the curriculum for diploma cancer education developed by the European Oncology Nurse Society (EONS). The EONS curriculum (4<sup>th</sup> edition 2013) has been utilised successfully by a number of European University Nursing Departments. Permission to use the EONS curriculum is restricted to EONS affiliated countries. Palestine Oncology Nurses Society became affiliated to EONS in 2014 and therefore has free access to utilize the EONS curriculum. (see attached EONS curriculum for diploma in Cancer).

Although the proposed Bethlehem University oncology diploma will be based on the EONS curriculum, it would be necessary to adapt this (as other countries have previously done so) to meet the specific needs of the cancer service provision in Palestine.

The course content will encompass the epidemiology and science of cancer, including every aspect of the patient's journey, from diagnosis, treatment options, management of symptoms and psychological support. It is proposed that particular emphasis will be placed on the most common cancers that are prevalent in Palestine.

The diploma will integrate oncology and palliative care ensuring participating nurses on completion of the course will be better prepared to recognize and respond to the difficult challenges that cancer patients pose from diagnosis to end of life care.

In addition the diploma programme will highlight the importance that cancer research has had on changing and improving cancer care and will encourage participants to consider the value of conducting and publishing research in their field of nursing practice.

## **Contributors to the Diploma**

The Dean of the Nursing Dept at Bethlehem University has developed links with Scottish oncology nurses and medics and has successfully hosted a 2 day cancer conference at Bethlehem University in 2012.

Gerry O Hare an oncology clinical nurse specialist with Glasgow & Clyde Health Board in Scotland has since 2012 collaborated with Mariam Awad (Dean of Nursing) to develop this proposal. Currently the teaching resources for this proposal will require input from clinicians and academics from Palestine and Scotland. Gerry O'Hare has committed to return to Palestine annually to contribute to the diploma. In addition he has had expressions of interest from fellow clinicians in Scotland also to travel to Bethlehem to contribute. It would also be necessary to explore the important role that videoconferencing could have on the delivery of teaching from Scotland. The success of the diploma would clearly be dependent on input from Palestinian academics/clinicians. This would also be necessary to ensure succession planning for the Diploma.

Further support would be sought from EONS. Professor Danny Kelly (President elect of EONS) Eric Von (President) and Professor Mary Wells (EONS board member and advisors to the proposed diploma) have shown a willingness (commitments permitting) to travel to Bethlehem University. Gerry O Hare will have further discussions with his colleagues to clarify the input from Scotland to the diploma.

The co-ordination and management of the diploma will be the responsibility of the Nursing Dept at Bethlehem University.

## **Outcomes for the Oncology Nurses Diploma**

The outcomes for cancer nursing in Palestine and improvement in patient cancer management following implementation of the Oncology nurse diploma are expected to be significant.

Benefits expected are:

- Significant benefits for Palestinian cancer patients arising from care delivered by a more knowledgeable and skilled nursing workforce.
- Dissemination of good cancer practice throughout the nursing and medical community through sharing of best practice.
- The establishment of leaders and role models in cancer nursing practice in Palestine
- A higher motivated and confident emergence of cancer nurses capable of reflective practice
- An enthusiasm and desire for cancer nurses to embrace more responsibility resulting from greater knowledge.
- A potential for the emergence of Palestinian cancer nursing research

- An ability to constructively criticise bad or outdated practice and be an agent for change in cancer care in Palestine
- Enable cancer nursing to be a more attractive career choice
- Gain added respect from medical colleagues
- Become the future educators on subsequent oncology nurse diplomas

## Inputs

- University approval for the programme
- Preparation of the curriculum
- Accreditation from Ministry of Higher Education
- Advertise the program
- Contact oncology hospitals/clinics for candidates nominations.
- Select prospective students according to admission criteria
- Assess clinical placements of students
- Identify appropriate teaching staff from within Palestine
- Continues input Gerry O Hare oncology C.N.S. Glasgow and Clyde Health Board
- Identify teaching staff from Glasgow and EONS to travel and contribute to the program in Palestine
- Identify the feasibility of using videoconferencing from Glasgow to contribute to teaching sessions
- Continued support for the program from Sadie Docherty Mayor of Glasgow.

## Monitoring /Review Arrangements

A program co-ordinator will be appointed at Bethlehem University and will be responsible for the co-ordination of all teaching contributors to the program. He/she will liase with Gerry O' Hare Clinical Nurse Specialist Glasgow & Clyde Health Board, who will provide advice on a consultancy basis and will co-ordinate teaching input from cancer specialists from Glasgow. The Dean will provide support and advice to program co-ordinator . The program will be evaluated as per normal University procedure.

In addition

1. Financial monitoring by B.U. vice president
2. Progress report submitted to academic office in addition to on a quarterly basis in addition to final implementation report.
3. Monitor student's progress according to evaluation criteria set for each course.
4. Evaluate feedback from students, clinical supervisors and employers
5. Continue consultation with relevant Ministries for Higher education and Health

6. External evaluation from Gerry O' Hare Oncology CNS Glasgow and representative from EONS to assess the effectiveness of the program and future viability.

## Curriculum

Course description for the oncology nursing high diploma programme.

### Fall Semester 2016

#### **(a) Context of Cancer Nursing. 3 Credits theory**

Contact hours: 60 hours

Study hours with practice: 120 hours

ECT credit points: 6

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This module introduces the learner to key concepts which have shaped the development of cancer services at a national and international level. The study content explores how nations as well as individuals are affected by cancer incidence and diagnosis. The cultural basis for cancer attitudes and values will be explored and the relationship between self-beliefs and care practices. Different contexts of cancer provision will be identified and the role of cancer prevention, detection, health promotion and patient education in reducing cancer incidence will be explored and discussed.

#### **(b)The Basic Science and Treatment of Cancer. 3 Credits theory**

Contact hours: 60 hours

Study hours with practice: 120 hours

ECT credit points: 6

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This module is about the basics of cancer development and the biological processes that contribute to the development of cancer. This knowledge is important not only in understanding how cancer arises but also why and the how cancer treatment is given. New developments in cancer treatment are occurring rapidly and the need to update knowledge and skills in an increasingly technical speciality is important for the nurse.

The student will have an understanding of

**(c) Information and communication in cancer care 2 Credits**

Contact hours: 90 hours

Study hours with practice: 180 hours

ECT credits: 9

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This module provides the knowledge and skills required to communicate effectively with cancer patients. One of the criticisms in cancer health care across Europe is that communication is poor between health professionals as well as between patients and carers. Good communication can aid decision making and facilitate patient choice self management and independence.

The student will have an understanding of

The information requirements of patients with cancer at time of diagnosis, treatment and aftercare.

**Spring Semester 2017**

**(a) Nursing assessment and Intervention in the Management of People Affected by Cancer. 4 Credits**

Contact hours: 90 hours

Study hours with practice: 180 hours

ECT credits: 9

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This module provides the knowledge and skills required to comprehensively assess an individual diagnosed with cancer. The ability to use appropriate tools to assess specific symptom problems or age-related issues is a necessity for modern cancer care. Identifying patients' needs is essential if the management and intervention is to be appropriate. Nursing interventions have been shown to impact on patient outcomes and their un-meet needs. This module enhances the decision-making and communication module and the practice skills are complementary in the development of assessment.

The student will be able to

**(b) Cancer as a chronic illness, Palliative Care. 3 credits theory**

Contact hours: 90 hours

Study hours with practice: 180 hours

ECT credits: 9

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This module provides the knowledge and skills required to support patients through treatment into survivorship and advanced disease. Cancer is increasingly being managed over many years therefore understanding co- morbidity and long term consequences of cancer and its treatment is essential to managing long term follow up. Advanced cancer also provides challenges for oncology nurses in managing symptoms, transitions in care and palliative care issues.

The student will be able to

**Summer Semester 2016**

**Evidence Based and Applied Research in Cancer Care 4 Credits**

Contact hours: 60 hours

Study hours with practice: 120 hours

ECT credits: 6

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This module aims to develop the skills of the nurse in being able to search, retrieve and critique evidence for cancer practice. These skills require understanding of the research process and the role of the cancer nurse in the development of new therapies and cancer knowledge. One of the difficulties of evidence-based practice is its implementation, and this module explores the barriers to change and dissemination.

Outline the role of health service research and the role of clinical audit in cancer services and identify and describe a nursing research topic in your own

## **Fall Semester 2017**

### **(a) The Impact of cancer on the Individual, families and health professionals 2 Credits**

Contact hours: 90 hours

Study hours with practice: 180 hours

ECT credit points: 9

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This module explores the impact that cancer diagnosis and treatment has on the individual and their family. It is recognised that a cancer diagnosis can cause high levels of psychological and physical morbidity, influencing quality of life, functional ability and employment. The uncertainty of cancer survival, fear of recurrence as well as how patients manage their illness can impact on recovery for both individuals and their families.

### **(b) Clinical Leadership and Resource management of Cancer Nursing 3 credits**

Contact hours: 60 hours

Study hours with practice: 120 hours

ECT credits: 6

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This module will enable the learner to facilitate team management and provide the necessary skills to organise work and practice development within a cancer setting. Multidisciplinary team working is essential in cancer care and developing skills in interpersonal relationships, communication and workforce development are essential for the future

## **Internship 3 Credits**

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Gerry O' Hare  
Clinical Nurse Specialist  
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