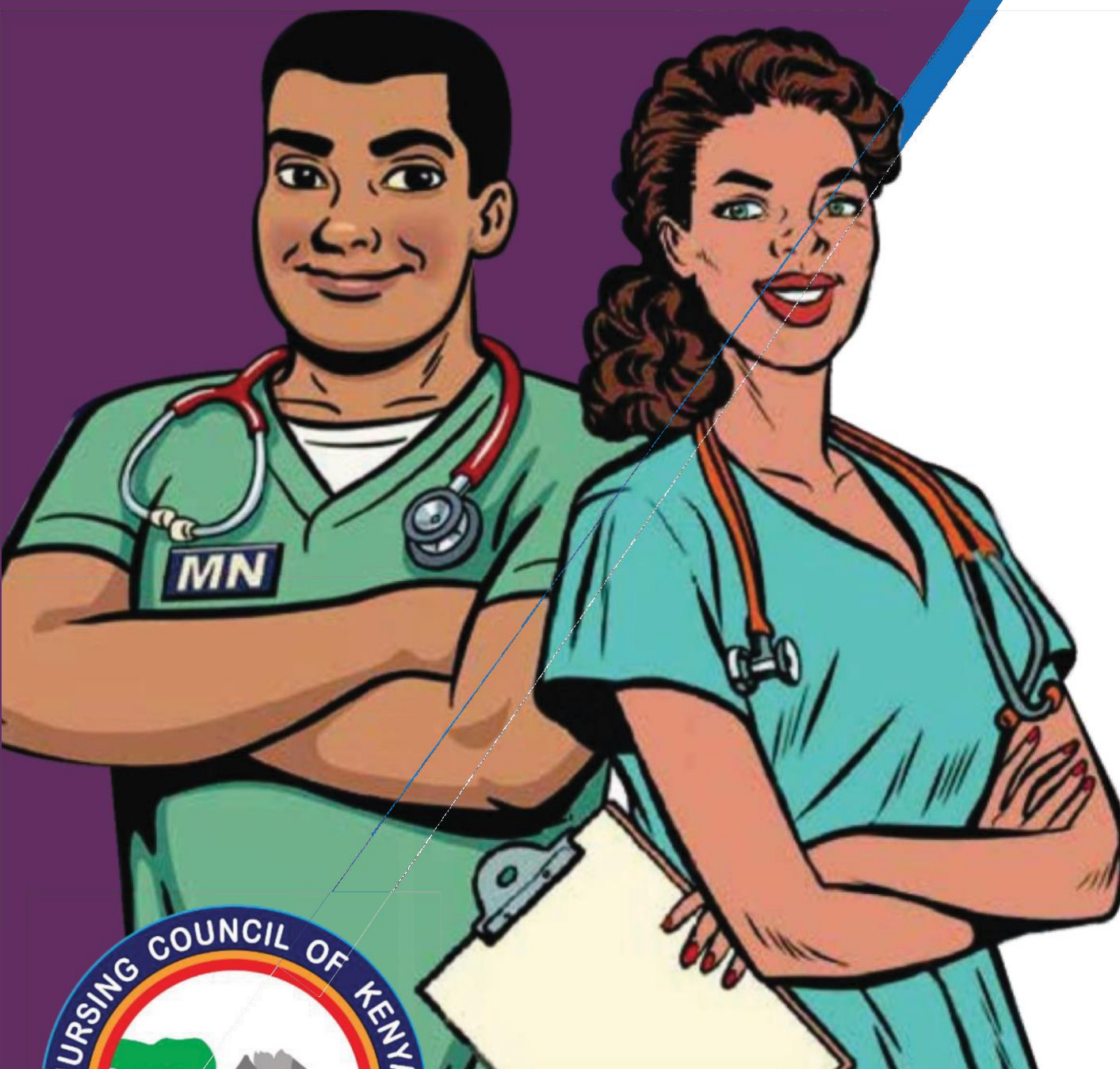


# SCOPE OF PRACTICE

## FOR ONCOLOGY NURSES

### IN KENYA



**MAY 2022**

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The Registrar,

Nursing council of Kenya,

P.O Box 20056-00200,

Nairobi, Kenya.

Tel: 3873556/3873585

Fax: 3873585

Cell: +254721920567/+254733924669

Email – [info@nckkenya.org](mailto:info@nckkenya.org)

Website: [www.nckkenya.com](http://www.nckkenya.com)

## NURSING COUNCIL OF KENYA- VISION, MISSION AND CORE VALUES

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### Our Vision

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A world-class regulatory body in nursing and midwifery education, and practice



### Our Mission

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Develop standards, enforce regulations in nursing and midwifery education, and practice



### Our Values

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Our core values express that everything we do comes from deeply-held commitments and shared understanding of our values, what we stand for, how we treat each other and those we serve; that inform every policy and steer every action summarized as:

**I – Integrity:** We are committed to acting in an honest, accountable and transparent manner in all our undertakings

**N – Nurture:** We value and nurture the strength of character it takes to work together as a team, to be an individual, to respect differences of opinions, and have the ability to empathize with others.

**S – Social responsibility:** Caring for the patient, family, community and the environment

**P – Professionalism:** We are dedicated to the highest levels of achievement obtainable through competencies and critical skills.

**I – Innovation:** We thrive on creativity and ingenuity. We seek the innovations that are evidence-based and data-driven to bring a positive change to the Council.

**R – Responsiveness:** We act with a sense of urgency, make qualified decisions in time and provide fiscally responsible solutions.

**E – Excellence:** We pledge the highest levels of effectiveness and efficiency

## FOREWORD

The Nursing Council of Kenya is a regulatory body established by an Act of Parliament, the Nurses and Midwives Act, Cap 257. The Council is mandated by law to make provision for nursing education and practice to ensure safe practitioners. The Council endeavors in its corporate responsibility to be a world class regulator, providing best practice to be emulated by the region and beyond. Similarly, the mission of the Council is to ensure the provision of quality nurses training and maintenance of professional nursing practice through research and appropriate regulations. In order to fulfill the mission and vision and, to realize its core mandate the Council is guided by regulatory tools like the scope of practice.

This scope of practice defines the limits of care and legal boundaries of oncology nursing practice. The development of this document has been necessitated by advancement in training the area of oncology nursing. Considering that cancer is the 3rd leading cause of death after infectious and cardiovascular disease, and nurses form the bulk of the human resource for health, the oncology nurse is a key player in the multidisciplinary team (MDT). The National Cancer Control Strategy 2017-2022 recognizes the role played by the oncology nurse. The document elaborates on the scopes for all levels of Oncology nurses in the country and can be applied in all health settings. We believe that this document will be of great benefit to all the users in all practice settings.

**Prof. Eunice Ndirangu- Mugo**

**CHAIRPERSON**

**NURSING COUNCIL OF KENYA**

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- Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology
- The Cicely McDonell College of Health Sciences – The Nairobi Hospital
- Kenya Medical Training College- Nairobi
- Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital – College of Health Sciences
- Kenyatta National Hospital
- Kenyatta National Hospital – School of Nursing
- Nairobi Hospice
- Machakos County Referral Hospital
- Embu Teaching and Referral Hospital

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

BLS	Basic Life Support
BNP	Brain Natriuretic Peptide
CBC	Complete blood count
CK	Creatine Kinase
CRP	C-Reactive protein
CSF	Cerebrospinal fluid
ECG	Electro Cardiogram
FBS	Fasting Blood Sugar
HIV	Human Immune Deficiency Virus
IHC	Immunohistochemistry
IPC	Infection Prevention and Control
IV	Intravenous
LEEP	Loop Electrical Excision Procedure
LFTs	Liver function tests
MDT	Multidisciplinary team
MRI	Magnetic Resonance Imaging
NCK	Nursing Council of Kenya
NGT	Nasogastric
PEG	Percutaneous Endoscopic gastrostomy
PET	Positron Emission Tomography
RBS	Random Blood sugar
UEC	Urea, Electrolyte and Creatinine
VDRL	Venereal Disease Research Laboratory
VIA	Visual Inspection with Acetic Acid
VILI	Visual Inspection with Lugol's Iodine

## SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

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The Nursing council of Kenya recognizes the central role of the Oncology nurse in provision of health services to patients across the cancer control and care continuum. To this end, it places emphasis on the need to maintain high standards of practice as well as the use of evidence to continuously improve practice. The oncology nurse is specially trained and qualified to take on professional responsibility and provide care to the patient and family across the complete continuum of health and illness in a variety of settings. In addition to being members of the multidisciplinary healthcare team, the Oncology Nurse works in collaboration with other agencies in providing holistic care to the individual, family and community.

This Scope of Practice document describes the range of interests, capabilities and professional activities of Oncology nurses in Kenya. It considers oncology nurses as a core member in the MDT. It is not intended to exclude the participation in other nursing activities as stipulated in the general nursing scope of practice. The overriding principle is that the oncology nurse will provide only those services for which they are adequately prepared and competent to perform through their academic and clinical training and experience. Their practice should be consistent with the Code of Ethics and Conduct for Nurses.

The purpose of this document is therefore to stipulate the scope within which the Oncology nurse should operate. It outlines those activities that are within the expertise of Oncology nurses. It serves as a reference for issues of service delivery, healthcare consumers, education, nursing regulatory activities, and inter-professional relations.

## SECTION 2.0: SPECIFIC SCOPE OF PRACTICE FOR DIFFERENT LEVELS

### 2.1 HIGHER DIPLOMA IN ONCOLOGY NURSING

The nurse has a post-basic diploma in oncology nursing and has acquired oncology nursing competencies to work at both operational and management level in the health care system. In addition to the registered nurse competencies, the nurse at this level will:

1. Participates in cancer prevention and early detection activities
2. Perform comprehensive systemic health assessment on a patient diagnosed with cancer, recognize deviations and intervene appropriately
3. Order, perform and interpret selected laboratory and diagnostic findings to make sound clinical decisions/ judgment in patient care according to relevant protocols and guidelines
4. Administer chemotherapy/biotherapy
5. Participate in brachytherapy procedure
6. Care for patients on radioactive iodine therapy
7. Contribute in making ethical decisions regarding patient care outcomes.
8. Participates in the patient navigation program
9. Participates in the tumour boards
10. Prescribe and perform selected medical surgical procedures as stipulated in appendix 3.
11. Perform basic emergency care to oncology patients in line with stipulated guidelines
12. Prescribe selected drugs and administer any other prescribed medication to clients /patients as per the guidelines.
13. Prepare patients for surgical interventions and participate in intra- and immediate post-operative care.

14. Collaborate with the multidisciplinary health team in admissions, care, transfers and discharge of patients from oncology unit
15. Participate in making ethical decisions regarding patient care outcomes.
16. Utilizes histopathological results
17. Provide psychosocial support to individuals, families and communities
18. Monitor and follow up on care provided to oncology patients
19. Participates and utilizes research findings to improve care in oncology unit
20. Undertake Cancer advocacy activities
21. Manage oncology services at hospital ward/ unit level
22. Provide mentorship to oncology specialty and other health professionals
23. Participate in development & implementation of policies and guidelines that promote access to oncology services.

## 2.2 POST-GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN ONCOLOGY NURSING

The nurse has a post-graduate diploma in oncology nursing and has acquired oncology nursing competencies to work at both operational and management level in the health care system. In addition to the registered nurse competencies, the nurse at this level will

1. Conduct cancer prevention and early detection activities
2. Perform comprehensive systemic health assessment on a patient diagnosed with cancer, recognize deviations and intervene appropriately
3. Order, perform and interpret selected laboratory and diagnostic findings to make sound clinical decisions/ judgment in patient care according to relevant protocols and guidelines
4. Utilize histopathology, immunohistochemistry and tumor marker reports
5. Participate in chemotherapy/biotherapy preparation and administration process and manage adverse reactions
6. Participates in the performance of brachytherapy procedure
7. Prepare and manage patients on radioactive iodine therapy
8. Participate in the patient navigation program
9. Contribute in the tumour board activities
10. Prescribe and perform selected medical surgical procedures as stipulated in appendix 3
11. Perform basic emergency care to oncology patients in line with stipulated guidelines
12. Prescribe selected drugs and administer any other prescribed medication to clients /patients as per the guidelines.
13. Prepare patients for surgical interventions and participate in intra- and post-operative care.
14. Collaborate with the multidisciplinary health team in admissions, care, transfers and discharge of patients from oncology unit

15. Contribute in making ethical decisions regarding patient care outcomes.
16. Interpret and utilize CSF studies
17. Interpret and utilizes histopathological results
18. Participate in development & implementation of policies and guidelines that promote access to oncology care services
19. Monitor and follow up on care provided to oncology patients
20. Conduct and utilizes research findings to improve care in oncology health care settings
21. Undertake cancer advocacy activities
22. Provide psychosocial support to individuals, families and communities
23. Provide mentorship to oncology specialty and other health professionals
24. Implement and evaluate curriculum related to oncology nursing for diploma and higher diploma level.
25. Participate in development & implementation of policies and guidelines that promote access to oncology services.
26. Manage oncology services and facilities as well as training institutions

### 2.3 MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING - ONCOLOGY

The nurse has a master's degree in oncology nursing and has acquired oncology nursing competencies to work at both operational and management level in the health care system. In addition to the registered nurse competencies, the nurse at this level will

1. Direct, coordinate and conduct cancer prevention and early detection activities
2. Perform comprehensive systemic health assessment on a patient diagnosed with cancer, recognize deviations and intervene appropriately
3. Order, perform and interpret selected laboratory and diagnostic findings to make sound clinical decisions/ judgment in patient care according to relevant protocols and guidelines and as per appendix 2
4. Prescribe chemotherapy/biotherapy in consultation with the relevant health care team members
5. Participate in chemotherapy/biotherapy preparation and administration process and manage adverse reactions
6. Participate in brachytherapy procedure
7. Coordinate, and manage patients on radioactive iodine therapy
8. Participate and contribute in the tumour boards
9. Prescribe and perform selected medical surgical procedures as stipulated in the appendix 3
10. Perform basic emergency care to oncology patients in line with stipulated guidelines
11. Prescribe selected drugs and administer any other prescribed medication to clients /patients as per the guidelines.
12. Initiate and coordinate preparation of patients for surgical interventions and care.



13. Collaborate with the multidisciplinary health team in admissions, care, transfers and discharge of patients from oncology unit
14. Guide in making ethical decisions regarding patient care outcomes.
15. Prescribe and utilize radiological investigation results
16. Interpret and utilize histopathological and immunohistochemistry results
17. Initiate & participate in development & implementation of policies and guidelines that promote access to oncological care
18. Manage oncology services at all levels of health care
19. Monitor and follow up on care provided to oncology patients
20. conduct and utilizes research findings to improve care in oncology unit
21. Develop and implement cancer advocacy activities
22. Provide mentorship to oncology specialty and other health professionals
23. Provide psychosocial support to individuals, families and communities
24. Conduct oncology nursing rounds and patient reviews
25. Design implement and evaluate curriculum related to oncology Nursing for graduate and post graduate diploma students.

## APPENDICES

### Appendix 1: DRUG LIST SCHEDULING CONSIDERATIONS

**The Oncology nurse shall be guided by the following:**

1. Work to the extent of training and certification, i.e. higher diploma, postgraduate diploma and masters
2. Individual qualification, experience and competence

The Oncology nurse shall prescribe/administer cancer care drugs in line with the current Ministry of health, Kenya Essential Medicines List.

The oncology nurse shall prescribe &/or administer specific drugs in:

1. Emergency where her/his decision shall result in saving the life of the patient.
2. Situations where a nurse is licensed as a private practitioner, working in a public / family/ or community setting and the patient's condition warrant so.
3. A case where a prescription has been given by the qualified prescribing officer
4. Power to prescribe medications with different levels of Physician oversight.
  - a. Restricted
  - b. Reduced restrictions
  - c. Full practice autonomy

**Medications that can be prescribed and administered by the oncology nurse**

**according to the level of education and competence include:**

- Chemotherapy /Biotherapy
- For common symptoms and adverse effects in oncology treatment.
- Intravenous fluids
- Pain management
- Blood and blood products transfusions.

## Appendix 2 : INVESTIGATIONS SCHEDULE

INVESTIGATIONS	HIGHER DIPLOMA	POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA	MASTER
<b>ROUTINE TESTS</b>			
1. Complete blood count (CBC)			
2. Blood sugar (RBS/FBS)			
3. Urea/Electrolyte/Creatinine (U/E/C)			
4. Liver function tests (LFTs)			
<b>BASED ON PATIENT NEEDS</b>			
1. ECG			
2. Cardiac Triage (D-Dimers, Myoglobin, Troponin, CKMB, Pro BNP)			
3. Cultures (Blood, Urine, tracheal aspirate, catheter tip, pus swab)			
4. Tumor markers			
5. C-Reactive protein (CRP)			
6. CSF studies			
7. Urinalysis (Dip stick)			
8. HIV ( Rapid)			
9. VDRL (Rapid)			
10. Hepatitis			
11. Thyroid function tests			
12. Stool for occult blood			
13. Bone chemistry			
14. Immunohistochemistry (IHC) and histopathological test			
15. Pregnancy test			
<b>RADIOLOGICAL TESTS</b>			
1. X-ray/mammogram	C		
2. Echocardiogram	A		
3. Doppler/ Ultrasound			
4. Ct Scan			
5. MRI/PET			
<b>Key:</b>			
Order, Perform, interpret and Utilize			
Order, interpret and utilize			
Interpret and utilize			
Utilize			

A	With Additional Training can perform		
C	In consultation		

### Appendix 3 : SPECIALIZED PROCEDURES SCHEDULE

PROCEDURES	HIGHER DIPLOMA	POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA	MASTERS
1. Oxygen therapy			
2. Care of assorted oncology invasive procedures			
3. Prescription of chemotherapy			
4. Prescription of:			
a. Antiemetics, IV fluids, Laxatives			
b. Non opioid analgesics			
c. Opioids			
d. Steroids			
e. Antihistamine			
5. Administration of			
a. Chemotherapy/biotherapy – iv and oral, and SC			
b. Intrathecal			
c. Antiemetic			
d. Opioids			
e. Iv Fluids			
f. Steroids	C		
6. Brachytherapy			
7. Lymphoedema care	A	A	A
8. Care of oncological emergencies	C	C	C
9. Perform admission procedure in Oncology unit			
10. Prepare patients for invasive procedures			
11. Set and use nebulizers			
12. Care of a patient with underwater seal drainage			
13. Insertion of a peripheral venous access and care			
14. Central venous device access and care			
15. Adhere to IPC protocols in oncology unit			
16. Counsel patients, family and significant others			
17. Linkage of patients to:			
a. multidisciplinary care			
b. community resources			

18. Discharge Patients from oncology units	C	C	C
19. Perform end of life care to oncology patients			
20. Perform last offices			
21. Recognition and management of complications and adverse effects during & after cancer treatments			
22. Provide post chemotherapy care	C		
23. Perform comprehensive patient assessment and document			
24. Meet nutritional requirements via:			
a. NGT feeding			
b. Parenteral			
c. PEG (Percutaneous Endoscopic gastrostomy) tube			
25. Urethral catheterization			
26. Pap smear , VIA/VILI breast examination			
27. HPV/DNA sample collection			
28. Colonoscopy	A	A	A
29. Leep (Loop electrical Excision Procedure) and colposcopy	A	A	A
30. Fine needle aspirate	A	A	A
31. Digital Rectal Examination	C		
<b>Key:</b>			
Perform unassisted			
Perform with assistance			
Not within scope	Red		
C	In consultation with relevant health team member		

#### Appendix 4: SUMMARY OF SPECIFIC COMPETENCIES

HIGHER DIPLOMA	POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA	MASTERS
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Participates in cancer prevention and early detection activities</li> <li>2. Perform comprehensive systemic health assessment on a patient diagnosed with cancer, recognize deviations and intervene appropriately</li> <li>3. Order, perform and interpret selected laboratory and diagnostic findings to make sound clinical decisions/ judgment in patient care according to relevant protocols and guidelines</li> <li>4. Administer chemotherapy/biotherapy</li> <li>5. Participate in brachytherapy procedure</li> <li>6. Care for patients on radioactive iodine therapy</li> <li>7. Contribute in making ethical decisions</li> </ol>	<p><b><i>Over and above that of the higher diploma:</i></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Conduct cancer prevention and early detection activities</li> <li>2. Utilize histopathology, immunohistochemistry and tumor marker reports</li> <li>3. Prescribe chemotherapy/biotherapy in consultation with the relevant health care team member</li> <li>4. Contributes in chemotherapy/biotherapy preparation and administration process and manage adverse reactions</li> <li>5. Prepare and manage patients on radioactive iodine therapy</li> <li>6. Contribute in tumor boards activities</li> <li>7. Interpret and utilizes histopathological results</li> <li>8. Conduct and utilizes research findings to improve care in oncology unit</li> </ol>	<p><b><i>Over and above that of a post graduate:</i></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Direct, coordinate and conduct cancer prevention and early detection activities</li> <li>2. Coordinate, direct chemotherapy/biotherapy preparation and administration process and manage adverse reactions</li> <li>3. Coordinate and participate in brachytherapy procedure</li> <li>4. Coordinate and manage patients on radioactive iodine therapy</li> <li>5. Initiate and direct the patient navigation program</li> <li>6. Lead and contribute towards decision-making in the tumor boards</li> <li>7. Initiate and coordinate preparation of patients for surgical interventions and care.</li> </ol>

<p>regarding patient care outcomes.</p> <p>8. Participates in the patient navigation program</p> <p>9. Participates in the tumour boards</p> <p>10. Prescribe and perform selected medical surgical procedures as stipulated in appendix 3.</p> <p>11. Perform basic emergency care to oncology patients in line with stipulated guidelines</p> <p>12. Prescribe selected drugs and administer any other prescribed medication to clients /patients as per the guidelines.</p> <p>13. Prepare patients for surgical interventions and participate in intra- and immediate post-operative care.</p> <p>14. Collaborate with the multidisciplinary health team in admissions, care,</p>	<p>9. Implement and evaluate curriculum related to oncology nursing for diploma and higher diploma level.</p> <p>10. Manage oncology services and facilities as well as training institutions</p>	<p>8. Guide in making ethical decisions regarding patient care outcomes.</p> <p>9. Initiate and direct the development of policies and guidelines that promote access to oncological care</p> <p>10. Initiate &amp; participate in development &amp; implementation of policies and guidelines that promote access to oncological care</p> <p>11. Manage oncology services at all levels of health care</p> <p>12. Initiate, conduct and utilize research findings to improve care in oncology unit</p> <p>13. Develop and implement cancer advocacy activities</p> <p>14. Conduct oncology nursing rounds and patient reviews</p> <p>15. Design implement and evaluate curriculum related to oncology Nursing for graduate and post graduate diploma students.</p>
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<p>transfers and discharge of patients from oncology unit</p> <p>15. Participate in making ethical decisions regarding patient care outcomes.</p> <p>16. Utilizes histopathological results</p> <p>17. Provide psychosocial support to individuals, families and communities</p> <p>18. Monitor and follow up on care provided to oncology patients</p> <p>19. Participates and utilizes research findings to improve care in oncology unit</p> <p>20. Undertake Cancer advocacy activities</p> <p>21. Manage oncology services at hospital ward/ unit level</p> <p>22. Provide mentorship to oncology specialty and other health professionals</p>		
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23. Participate in development & implementation of policies and guidelines that promote access to oncology services.		
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## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Initiate:** Take lead in performance or implementation of a patient care intervention

**Interpret:** Understand the clinical implication of an investigation result or an assessment

**Utilize:** Identify appropriate interventions in line with an assessment of a diagnostic finding

**Prescribe:** Make an order for a patient care intervention

**Accountable:** Being answerable for one's actions, decisions and advice legally or professionally.

**Advocacy Role:** A role in which the nurse/midwife procedures on behalf of clients to help them gain greater independence or self-determination and to make the system more responsive and relevant to their needs and the needs of nurses, midwives and other health care providers.

**Assessment:** The organized, systematic and continuous process of observations and measurements of nursing/midwifery care. Assessment includes the use of interviewing, physical examination and carrying out investigations.

**Competencies:** Basic knowledge, skills, attitudes and judgment required to safely perform the prescribed role.

**Linkage:** To connect the patient to the relevant care/service provider

**Individual:** Refers to a single client, regardless of age or health status as distinct from a family or group.

**Manager:** A person delegated the responsibility and authority by the organization to co-ordinate individual efforts of others to achieve organizational goals and objectives.

**Nurse:** A person who has successfully completed a prescribed general basic nursing education program and is licensed by the appropriate regulatory authority to practice nursing in her/his own country and/or in the ECSA region.

**Nursing:** Nursing is the integration and application of nursing and other basic science knowledge in the provision of care to enable people to promote, maintain and recover their health, to cope with health problems and to achieve the best possible quality of life through the health illness continuum.

**Rehabilitation:** The process of enabling a sick individual to return to the highest possible level of functioning.

**Registered:** A person having been entered in the registers of nurses or midwives in Kenya.

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## LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
1.	Prof. Eunice Ndirangu- Mugo, MSc ANP PhD (Nursing studies)	Council Chairperson
2.	Edna Tallam- Kimaiyo, BScN, MPH, CGN	Registrar/CEO Nursing Council of Kenya
3.	Alfred Obengo, RN	Chairperson, DSE committee
4.	Margaret Muiyuro, RN, RCCN, MPH	NCK- DSE Committee
5.	Joel Gondi (Dr), MBChB, MPH, EMBA	NCK- DSE Committee
6.	Michael Nyongesa, BSc HSM, RN, SMC	NCK- DSE Committee
7.	Dr. Judith Awinja, PhD (Health policy & strategic management)	Council member
8.	Boniface Kimangau, RCHN, BScN	Council member
9.	Mathew Kipturgor, BScN, MScN	Council member
10.	Prof. Elijah Nyangena, BScN, MScN, PhD (Med edu)	Council member
11.	Dr. Gladys Machira- Maripet, BScN, MScN, PhD	Nursing Council of Kenya
12.	Anne N. Mukuna, BScN, RCCN, MSc HSM	Nursing Council of Kenya
13.	Branice Kisali, BScN, MA M&E	Nursing Council of Kenya
14.	Judith Kudoyi- RN, RM, RCCN, BSc (M.edu)	Nursing Council of Kenya
15.	Nargis Kaka, RN(PB) EMonC, SMC	Nursing Council of Kenya
16.	Maryline J. Chebii, BScN, MSN educ	Nursing Council of Kenya
17.	Caroline J. Sabulei, BScN, MSN Oncology	Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital – College of Health Sciences
18.	James O. Ochieng, BScN, MSCN med-surg	Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology
19.	Henry K. Mitheu, BScN, MSN Oncology	Machakos Level Five Hospital
20.	Immaculate M. Wambugu, BScN, KRoN, MN	The Cicely McDonell College of Health Sciences – The Nairobi Hospital

<b>21.</b>	Irene G. Mageto (Dr), RN, BScN, MScN, PhD	The University of Nairobi
<b>22.</b>	Mercy N. Kamau, RN/RM, Bachelors palliative care	Nairobi Hospice
<b>23.</b>	Roselyne A. Okumu, BScN, MSN Oncology	Kenyatta National Hospital
<b>24.</b>	Stella M. Rithara, BScN, RPCN	Kenya Medical Training Center Nairobi
<b>25.</b>	Stella N. Warui, BScN, RON	Embu Level five Hospital
<b>26.</b>	Stellamaris K. Wambua	Kenyatta National Hospital – School of Nursing



---

NURSING COUNCIL OF KENYA

P.O. Box 20056-00200, Nairobi, Kenya

Tel: +254 20 387 556 /

+254 721 920 569 /

+254 733 924 669

[www.nckkenya.com](http://www.nckkenya.com)

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