

"Different disciplines bringing
their own perspective...
interactive learning...
comprehensive overview...

**learning together
to maximize the
benefit to patients.**

I would definitely recommend ICC
to my colleagues."

Dr. Catherine McNally, Family Physician and Palliative Care
Resource Physician, Annapolis Valley, Nova Scotia



Oncology Education for Health Professionals

"Interacting and learning with other health professionals is a huge advantage of ICC.

Collaboration helps us better understand different perspectives and the health care system.

**This means
better care
for patients.**

As a result of the Chemotherapy and Side Effects module, I've been able to better serve patients in my community."

Paul Zinck, Community Pharmacist
Lawton's Drugs, St. Peter's, Nova Scotia

"The information provided through ICC was very helpful. Even with 20 years experience

as a chemo nurse, the material was a valuable refresher.

I will definitely share my learning with other nurses."

Kaye Marie Chisholm, Chemotherapy Nurse
St. Martha's Hospital, Antigonish, Nova Scotia

Excellence in Cancer Care

Continuing education key to excellence

Cancer medicine is a dynamic field of study where advances in knowledge gained through research and clinical practice are rapidly improving treatment and outcomes for cancer patients and their families.

Cancer Care Nova Scotia (CCNS) developed *Excellence in Cancer Care*, a suite of continuing education programs for health professionals, to meet their growing need for continued knowledge and skills development. All *Excellence in Cancer Care* programs are based upon the most current evidence available and best practice. These programs help health providers secure the knowledge and skills necessary to provide their patients and families with quality, evidence-based care.

Interprofessional Core Curriculum (ICC) is an *Excellence in Cancer Care* program.

What is Interprofessional Core Curriculum (ICC)?

ICC is a continuing education program that was developed by *Cancer Care Nova Scotia* for community-based, primary care health professionals. It includes 10 modules with topics in pain management, symptom management, treatment and side effects. The program is interactive and is delivered in an interprofessional setting. It was developed based on interprofessional needs assessments, evidence and best practice.

What is the goal of ICC?

To provide an interprofessional, community-based education program to health professionals, who treat and care for cancer patients and their families, which will increase their knowledge and skills and promote changes in their professional practice. The ultimate goals are improved patient outcomes and patient/family satisfaction.



Who benefits from ICC?

ICC is of benefit to all health professionals (family physicians, nurses, social workers, spiritual care workers or chaplains, pharmacists, dietitians and others) who, from time to time, provide care to cancer patients and their families.

ICC programs are offered in health districts throughout Nova Scotia. For program schedules, visit *Cancer Care Nova Scotia's* website, www.cancercare.ns.ca

Why did CCNS decide on an interprofessional approach to learning?

The decision was based on a number of factors including:

- Needs assessment results indicating a number of common topics of interest across disciplines;
- Identified desire among health professionals to learn about the roles and responsibilities of one another;
- The complexity of cancer as a disease and the great number of health professionals that are often involved in one person's care; and
- Documented evidence which suggests that teams that learn together work more effectively.

CCNS developed the program with expert assistance from:

Dalhousie University Continuing Medical Education, Dalhousie University Continuing Pharmacy Education and the Registered Nurses Professional Development Centre. In addition, subject matter expert writers, and an interprofessional CCNS Curriculum Writing Group were also involved.


All modules were peer reviewed and pilot tested.

An in-depth evaluation was conducted. It focused on health professionals' intended and self-reported changes in practice as well as changes in interprofessional collaboration. The evaluation validates the benefits of this program.

ICC modules include:

- Gastrointestinal Symptoms
- Symptom Management and Metabolic Imbalances
- Managing Psychosocial Responses
- Creating Therapeutic Conversations
- Chemotherapy and Side Effects
- Radiation Therapy and Side Effects
- Oncologic Emergencies
- Childhood Cancer: Early Recognition and Late Effects
- Pain Management: The Basics
- Pain Management: Building on the Basics

The topics chosen were based on results from comprehensive, interprofessional needs assessments. See information on the back panel.



**To learn how to offer
ICC or for general
information contact:**

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www.cancercare.ns.ca



*Cancer Care
Nova Scotia*

Many Hearts. Many Minds. One Goal.