MALLA REDDY VISHWAVIDYAPEETH

(Deemed to be University)

Hyderabad

School of Nursing Science and Technology

FELLOWSHIP IN ONCOLOGY CARE NURSING

Curriculum 2026

Programme particulars	
Level	Post-registration fellowship (nursing)
Duration	26 weeks (6 months) – 1,000 hours
Structure	Theory 100 h · Simulation laboratory 60 h · Clinical practice 840 h
Eligibility	Registered B.Sc Nursing / M.Sc Nursing in India, or equivalent
Award	Fellowship certificate of Malla Reddy Vishwavidyapeeth

Approved Curriculum by the Board of Studies, Academic Council and Executive Council

Stage	Body	Date of approval / resolution no.
1	Board of Studies Nursing	
2	Academic Council	
3	Executive Council	

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1. Preamble and Need for the Programme

Malla Reddy School of Nursing Science and Technology recognises the growing demand for professionally trained nurses who can manage treatment-related complications and oncological emergencies in hospital and community settings. Registered nurses are often the first point of contact in an emergency and play a decisive role in early assessment, stabilisation, life-saving interventions and continuity of care. Specialised training is therefore essential for safe, timely and evidence-based nursing practice.

The Fellowship in oncology care nursing is designed to strengthen the competencies of nurses in triage, advanced life support, focuses on cancer biology, diagnostic procedures, chemotherapy administration, radiation therapy care, immunotherapy, management of treatment-related complications, infection control, and supportive care including pain and symptom management. Nurses will gain expertise in monitoring cancer patients, managing oncological emergencies, and providing counseling and support to patients and their families.

The fellowship also develops skills in patient monitoring, emergency pharmacology, use of advanced medical technology, infection control, ethical decision-making and communication in crisis. Through structured clinical exposure, simulation-based learning and case-based discussion, nurses are prepared to deliver comprehensive, patient-centred and outcome-oriented care in emergency and trauma settings. The programme aims to build professional confidence, clinical judgement and leadership, and so to contribute to better patient outcomes, lower morbidity and mortality, and stronger emergency health services.

1.1 Need

- Increasing burden of cancer and increased the demand for specialised oncology services and skilled nursing professionals who can provide comprehensive, evidence-based cancer care across the continuum of prevention, diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation, and palliative care.

- A structured, competency-based fellowship can bridge these gaps through focused theoretical instruction and supervised clinical practice.

- Demand for advanced oncology nursing roles.

2. Vision, Mission and Programme Objectives

2.1 Vision

To prepare emergency and Oncological care nurses who deliver safe, timely, evidence-based and compassionate care and who lead improvement of emergency health services.

2.2 Mission

- Provide competency-based training with graded clinical responsibility, simulation and supervised practice.
- Promote ethical, patient-centred and safe practice in every emergency setting.
- Develop clinical judgement, teamwork and leadership for emergency situations.

2.3 Programme objectives

After successful completion of the Fellowship in Oncology Care Nursing, the fellow will be able to:

1. Provide safe, ethical, and evidence-based nursing care to patients undergoing cancer treatment.
2. Assess, monitor, and manage patients receiving chemotherapy, radiation therapy, immunotherapy, and surgical oncology treatments.
3. Identify and manage treatment-related complications and oncological emergencies.
4. Operate and maintain emergency and critical care equipment safely and apply infection-prevention practices.
5. Provide psychological support, patient education, and counseling for cancer patients and their families.
6. Promote cancer prevention, screening, and early detection strategies in community and clinical settings.
7. Maintain ethical, legal and professional standards, including accurate documentation and handover.

3. Programme at a Glance

Item	Details
Name of the programme	Fellowship in Oncology Care Nursing
Offered by	School of Nursing Science and Technology, Malla Reddy Vishwavidyapeeth (Deemed to be University)
Duration	26 weeks (6 months), full time
Total hours	Total-1,000 Hrs: Theory-100 Hrs, Simulation laboratory-60 Hrs, Clinical practice-840 Hrs
Credits	33 (at 30 notional hours per credit; 1,000 h ÷ 30 = 33.3, rounded down)
Eligibility	Registered B.Sc Nursing / M.Sc Nursing in India, or equivalent
Mode	Contact classes, simulation, supervised clinical postings in a teaching hospital, logbook
Assessment	MCQ 25 + practical skills (three case scenarios) 60 + logbook 15 = 100 marks; minimum 50% in each component and 50% aggregate
Award	Fellowship certificate by Malla Reddy Vishwavidyapeeth (Deemed to be University)
Medium of instruction	English

4. Eligibility, Selection and Governance

4.1 Eligibility

- Registered B.Sc Nursing or M.Sc Nursing in India, or equivalent qualification.
- Current registration with a State Nursing Council (certificate to be produced at admission).
- Medical fitness certificate and immunisation record (hepatitis B at minimum).

4.2 Selection and commencement

The fellowship is established to uphold transparency, fairness and meritocracy in the selection process for the MRV Fellowship Programme. Selection is made by the Fellowship Committee on the basis of academic record, a short interview and document verification. A batch commences once the committee has approved the list of fellows and allotted a guide to each fellow.

4.3 Fellowship Committee

Sl. No.	Role / position	Description / designation
1	Chairperson	The Dean, SNST
2	Subject expert	Dean MRCON, Professor or Associate Professor of SNST
3	Guide / co-guide	Professor, Associate Professor or Assistant Professor from SNST
4	Convener	The Fellowship Coordinator of MRV
5	Ex officio members	The Registrar and the Controller of Examinations, MRV

Functions of the committee: approval of the curriculum and of any additional output or deliverable (written approval is needed beforehand); selection of fellows; allotment of guides; monitoring of attendance, logbooks and clinical postings; conduct of the final assessment; handling of grievances; recommendation of award of the certificate.4.4 Guides

- Guide / co-guide: Professor, Associate Professor or Assistant Professor from SNST with a postgraduate qualification in nursing and experience in Oncology Care Nursing.
- Clinical preceptors: Registered nurses with at least two years of clinical experience in oncology nursing or cancer care, preferably in a specialized oncology unit, and valid BLS certification. Additional certification in chemotherapy administration or oncology nursing is desirable.
- Guide-to-fellow ratio not more than 1:5 and preceptor-to-fellow ratio not more than 1:3 in clinical areas.

5. Programme Outcomes

5.1 Programme outcomes (POs)

At the end of the fellowship the fellow demonstrates the following programme outcomes.

PO	Domain	Programme outcome
PO1	Knowledge	Explains the aetiology, pathophysiology, diagnostic findings and management of Oncological disorders and life-threatening conditions.
PO2	Assessment and triage	Assess treatment-related adverse effects, including oncological emergencies, pain, infection, nutritional problems, and other common symptoms
PO3	Emergency interventions	Demonstrate competence in emergency stabilisation and resuscitation of critically ill cancer patients, including airway management, haemodynamic monitoring, and cardiopulmonary resuscitation within the scope of practice.
PO4	Communication and education	Communicates and hands over clearly, documents accurately, supports patients and families in crisis and educates patients, families and staff.
PO5	Safety, infection control and ethics	Applies infection-prevention, medication and equipment safety, consent, confidentiality and ethical decision-making.
PO6	Leadership and evidence	Leads and supervises emergency teams, takes part in emergency and applies evidence and protocols to practice.

6. Curriculum Framework

6.1 Distribution of hours

Unit	Title	Theory (h)	Simulation lab (h)
1	Introduction to Oncology Nursing	05	3
2	Overview of Cancer: Types, Early Detection	15	8
3	Pain and Symptom Management	05	7
4	Infection Control in Oncology	05	10
5	Cancer Treatment Modalities	10	5
6	Oncological Emergencies	10	8
7	Psychosocial and Holistic Care	05	6
8	Oncology Nursing Research and Evidence-Based Practice	10	

Unit	Title	Theory (h)	Simulation lab (h)
9	Palliative and End of Life Care	15	8
10	Precision Oncology and Genetic	10	
11	Communication in Oncology Nursing	10	5
	Total	**100**	**60**

Component	Hours	Share
Theory (11 units)	100	10%
Simulation laboratory	60	6%
Clinical practice (postings)	840	84%
Total	**1,000**	**100%**

Average weekly load over 26 weeks: about 4 hours of theory, 2 hours of simulation and 32 hours of clinical practice (about 38 hours a week).

6.2 Schedule of the 26 weeks

Weeks	Activity
1–2	Orientation, BLS certification, Units I and II, Overview of Cancer, infection-control in oncology, cancer treatment modalities, posting in the oncology department begins
3–20	Clinical postings as in Section 8, with theory (Units III–XI) and simulation sessions scheduled against the posting
21–25	Remaining postings, logbook completion, revision and case-scenario practice
26	Final assessment and exit examination

6.3 Teaching–learning methods

- Interactive lectures, videos and case-based learning
- Simulation laboratory: manikins, defibrillator, ventilator, monitors,PPE & Pain Scale practice ,Emergency simulations, Infusion pump,Oncological Emergency .
- Bedside teaching, supervised procedures and graded responsibility in clinical postings
- Group discussion, role play, peer-led presentations, music therapy and relaxation demonstrations
- Cancer screening method & Role play for end-of-life communication; scenario OSCE practice
- Logbook reflection and guide feedback

7. Detailed Syllabus: Oncology Care Nursing

Theory 100 hours · Simulation laboratory 60 hours · Clinical practice 840 hours

For every unit the syllabus gives the learning objectives, content, teaching–learning activities, assessment methods and course outcomes (CO).

Unit I: Introduction to Oncology Nursing

Theory 05 hours · Simulation laboratory 3 hours

Learning objectives

- **Understand the evolution, scope and principles of oncology nursing.**
- Describe cancer epidemiology and risk factors.
- Identify diagnostic investigations used in cancer detection.

Content

Introduction to Oncology Nursing

- Historical development of oncology care.
- Epidemiology and burden of cancer.
- Risk factors and prevention strategies.
- Cancer biology and carcinogenesis.
- Tumor classification, staging and grading.
- Diagnostic investigations: biopsy, imaging studies and tumor markers.

Teaching–learning activities

Lectures,video demonstrations of diagnostic procedures, case discussions on cancer detection, interactive classroom discussions.

Assessment methods

MCQ; Case Presentation; Log book evaluation & viva

Course outcomes (CO)

CO	Course outcome: the fellow will be able to
CO1	Describe the historical development, scope and principles of oncology nursing.
CO2	Explain cancer epidemiology, risk factors, carcinogenesis and prevention strategies.
CO3	Describe tumor classification, staging, grading and diagnostic investigations used in cancer detection

Unit II: Overview of Cancer: Types and Early Detection

Theory: 15 hours *Simulation laboratory 8 hours*

Learning objectives

- Identify common types of cancer affecting different body systems.
- Recognize the importance of cancer screening and early detection.
- Explain the role of nurses in cancer prevention, screening and referral.

Content

- Types of Cancer
- Carcinoma: cancers arising from epithelial tissues, including breast, lung, cervical, prostate and colorectal cancers.
- Sarcoma: cancers originating from connective tissues such as bone, muscle, cartilage and fat.
- Leukemia: cancers of blood-forming tissues associated with abnormal white blood cells.
- Lymphoma: cancers affecting the lymphatic system, including Hodgkin and non-Hodgkin lymphoma.
- Multiple myeloma: cancer of plasma cells in the bone marrow.
  Early diagnosis and its impact on treatment outcomes.

Importance of Early Detection

- Early diagnosis and its impact on treatment outcomes.
- Reduction of cancer-related morbidity and mortality.
- Importance of screening and timely referral.

Common Cancer Screening Methods

- Breast cancer: breast self-examination (BSE), clinical breast examination and mammography.
- Cervical cancer: Pap smear and HPV testing.
- Colorectal cancer: stool occult blood testing and colonoscopy.
- Prostate cancer: prostate-specific antigen (PSA) testing and clinical assessment.

- Oral cancer: oral cavity examination.

Role of Nurses in Cancer Screening

- Health education and awareness programmes.
- Participation in community screening camps.
- Patient counselling and referral.
- Promotion of healthy lifestyles and preventive practices.

Teaching–learning activities

Lectures with PowerPoint presentations,video demonstrations of screening methods, case study discussions.

Course outcomes (CO)

CO	Course outcome: the fellow will be able to
CO1	Describe common cancers affecting different body systems and their characteristics.
CO2	Explain the importance, methods and principles of cancer screening and early detection.
CO3	Demonstrate appropriate health education and breast self-examination teaching techniques.
CO4	Participate in cancer awareness, screening, counselling and referral activities.

Unit III: Pain and Symptom Management

Theory: 5 hours *Simulation laboratory 7 hours*

Learning objectives

- Understand the mechanisms and types of cancer pain.
- Assess cancer-related pain using appropriate assessment scales.
- Apply nursing interventions for pain and other cancer-related symptoms.

Content

- Pain and Symptom Management in Oncology
- Pathophysiology and mechanisms of cancer pain.
- Types of pain: acute, chronic and neuropathic.
- Pain assessment scales and systematic pain assessment.
- WHO analgesic ladder and principles of cancer pain management.
- Pharmacological and non-pharmacological pain relief methods.
- Management of nausea, vomiting, fatigue and dyspnoea.
- Monitoring treatment response, adverse effects and symptom burden.

Teaching–learning activities

Lectures ,pain scale practice, simulation laboratory sessions on symptom management ,case discussions.

Assessment methods

Practical assessment , short-answer test , peer feedback.

Course outcomes (CO)

CO	Course outcome: the fellow will be able to
CO1	Explain the pathophysiology and types of cancer-related pain.
CO2	Assess pain and symptom severity using appropriate validated tools.
CO3	Implement pharmacological and non-pharmacological pain management measures safely.
CO4	Provide nursing care for nausea, vomiting, fatigue, dyspnoea and other common cancer-related symptoms.

Unit IV: Infection Control in Oncology

Theory: 5 hours *Simulation laboratory 10 hours*

Learning objectives

- Identify infection risks in patients with cancer.
- Apply infection prevention and control measures in oncology settings.
- Recognize and initiate appropriate management of febrile neutropenia.

Content

- Infection Control in Oncology
- Immunosuppression in cancer patients.
- Neutropenia and associated infection risks.
- Standard precautions and transmission-based precautions.
- Isolation practices and appropriate use of personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Hospital-acquired infections in oncology units.
- Febrile neutropenia: recognition, assessment and emergency management.
- Infection surveillance, patient education and prophylactic measures as prescribed.

Teaching–learning activities

Laboratory demonstrations, PPE practice, case discussions on infection control ,simulation of febrile neutropenia assessment.

Assessment methods

Skill demonstration checklist, MCQs, viva voce.

Course outcomes (CO)

CO	Course outcome: the fellow will be able to
CO1	Identify infection risks associated with cancer, immunosuppression and neutropenia.
CO2	Demonstrate standard precautions, PPE use and appropriate isolation practices.
CO3	Recognize febrile neutropenia and initiate timely escalation and protocol-based nursing interventions.
CO4	Educate patients and families on infection prevention and infection surveillance measures

Unit V: Cancer Treatment Modalities

Theory: 10 hours *Simulation laboratory 5 hours*

Learning objectives

- Understand the major modalities used in cancer treatment.
- Identify nursing responsibilities before, during and after cancer treatment.
- Administer chemotherapy safely within the authorized scope of practice.
- Monitor and manage treatment-related complications

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Content

Surgical Oncology

- Principles of cancer surgery.
- Preoperative and postoperative nursing care.
- Management of surgical complications and rehabilitation.

Chemotherapy

- Classification and principles of chemotherapy drugs.
- Cytotoxic drug preparation, administration and monitoring.
- Safe handling, storage and disposal of cytotoxic agents.
- Extravasation: prevention, recognition and management.
- Side effects and complications of chemotherapy.
- Patient education regarding treatment, adverse effects and home care.

Radiation Therapy

- Principles and types of radiation therapy.
- External beam radiotherapy and brachytherapy.
- Radiation safety and nursing care.
- Management of radiation-related adverse effects

Other Cancer Treatment Modalities

- Immunotherapy.
- Targeted therapy.
- Hormonal therapy.
- Monitoring treatment response and adverse effects.
- Multidisciplinary Cancer Care
- Roles of the oncology team.
- Coordination of treatment, supportive care and rehabilitation.
- Patient education, treatment adherence and follow-up.

Teaching–learning activities

Demonstrations; simulation training; infusion pump practice, case discussions, chemotherapy safety exercises.

Assessment methods

Practical demonstration, drug calculation test, objective structured clinical examination (OSCE)

Course outcomes (CO)

CO	Course outcome: the fellow will be able to
CO1	Describe the principles and indications of surgical oncology, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, immunotherapy, targeted therapy and hormonal therapy.
CO2	Explain nursing responsibilities during different cancer treatment modalities.
CO3	Demonstrate safe chemotherapy administration principles, cytotoxic drug handling and extravasation management according to institutional protocols.
CO4	Monitor treatment-related complications and provide patient education and supportive nursing care.
CO5	Coordinate care with the multidisciplinary oncology team

Unit VI: Oncological Emergencies

Theory: 10 hours *Simulation laboratory 8hours*

Learning objectives

- Recognize common oncological emergencies and their clinical manifestations.
- Initiate emergency nursing interventions and escalate care promptly.
- Monitor patients and evaluate responses to emergency treatment

Content

Oncological Emergencies

- Tumor lysis syndrome: causes, clinical features, investigations, prevention and management.
- Superior vena cava syndrome: clinical manifestations, assessment and emergency nursing care.
- Spinal cord compression: warning signs, neurological assessment and urgent management.
- Hypercalcemia of malignancy: clinical features, monitoring and management.
- Sepsis in cancer patients: early recognition, assessment and emergency management.
- Prioritization of care, monitoring, documentation and interprofessional communication.

Teaching–learning activities

Emergency simulations ,clinical case discussion, problem-solving exercises, scenario-based team drills.

Assessment methods

Scenario-based OSCE , written test , case analysis.

Course outcomes (CO)

CO	Course outcome: the fellow will be able to
CO1	Identify the signs, symptoms and complications of common oncological emergencies.
CO2	Recognize tumor lysis syndrome, superior vena cava syndrome, spinal cord compression, hypercalcemia and sepsis.
CO3	Initiate timely emergency nursing interventions, monitoring and escalation according to institutional protocols.
CO4	Collaborate with the multidisciplinary team in the management of oncological emergencies.

Unit VII: Psychosocial and Holistic Care

Theory: 5 hours *Simulation laboratory 6 hours*

Learning objectives

- Apply holistic care principles in oncology nursing.
- Recognize the psychosocial impact of a cancer diagnosis.
- Provide emotional support to patients, families and caregivers.
- Promote coping, adaptation, survivorship and rehabilitation.

Content

- Psychosocial and Holistic Care in Oncology
- Psychological impact of cancer diagnosis and treatment.
- Emotional responses: anxiety, fear, depression and uncertainty.
- Coping mechanisms, adaptation and resilience.
- Therapeutic communication and emotional support.
- Family support, caregiver stress and caregiver education.
- Spiritual, cultural and individual considerations in cancer care.
- Cancer survivorship, rehabilitation and reintegration into daily life.
- Supportive resources and referral for psychosocial needs.

Teaching–learning activities

Group discussions ,role play on patient counselling, case study analysis, peer presentations,reflective exercises.

Assessment methods

Case presentation, role-play assessment, reflective assignment.

Course outcomes (CO)

CO	Course outcome: the fellow will be able to
CO1	Explain the psychological, social, cultural and spiritual impact of cancer on patients and families.
CO2	Assess emotional distress and identify appropriate support and referral needs.
CO3	Apply therapeutic communication and supportive interventions to promote coping and adaptation.
CO4	Develop nursing plans that incorporate family support, survivorship and rehabilitation.

Unit VIII: Oncology Nursing Research and Evidence-Based Practice

Theory: 10 hours

Learning objectives

- Understand the principles of oncology nursing research and evidence-based practice.
- Apply research findings to improve cancer care.
- Develop basic skills in data collection, interpretation and critical appraisal.

Content

Oncology Nursing Research and Evidence-Based Practice

- Introduction to nursing research in oncology.
- Importance and principles of evidence-based practice (EBP).
- Types of research: qualitative and quantitative.
- Research design, research questions and basic methodology.
- Ethical considerations in cancer research.
- Data collection methods, instruments and tools.
- Basic data analysis, interpretation and presentation of findings.
- Literature review and critical appraisal of research articles.
- Application of research findings to clinical nursing practice.
- Role of nurses in clinical trials: patient education, informed consent, protocol adherence, safety monitoring and documentation.

Teaching–learning activities

Lectures, journal club discussions , research article reviews; group presentations , critical appraisal exercises.

Assessment methods

Reflective journal, viva voce; research article review, group presentation.

Course outcomes (CO)

CO	Course outcome: the fellow will be able to
CO1	Explain the principles, types and ethical requirements of oncology nursing research.

CO	Course outcome: the fellow will be able to
CO2	Identify appropriate data collection methods and basic research tools.
CO3	Critically appraise research articles and interpret relevant findings.
CO4	Apply evidence-based recommendations to oncology nursing practice.
CO5	Describe the role and responsibilities of nurses in clinical trials.

Unit IX: Palliative and End-of-Life Care

Theory: 15 hours *Simulation laboratory 8hours*

Learning objectives

- Provide palliative care for patients with cancer.
- Manage pain and other distressing symptoms in advanced cancer.
- Communicate sensitively with patients and families during end-of-life care.
- Support families during dying, death and bereavement.

Content

Principles of Palliative Care

- Concept, goals and principles of palliative care.
- Integration of palliative care across the cancer trajectory.
- Assessment of physical, psychological, social and spiritual needs.
- Symptom control and comfort-focused care.

Pain and Symptom Control

- Management of pain, dyspnoea, nausea, vomiting, fatigue and other distressing symptoms.
- Nursing care for patients with advanced and progressive cancer.
- Medication safety and monitoring of symptom relief.

Hospice Care

- Principles and services of hospice care.
- Home-based and institutional palliative care.
- Family and caregiver education.
- Coordination of multidisciplinary palliative services.

Communication in Terminal Illness

- Therapeutic communication with patients and families.
- Goals-of-care discussions and shared decision-making.
- Respect for patient preferences, dignity and autonomy.
- Support during the dying process.

Ethical Issues in Oncology

- Informed consent and decision-making capacity.
- Advance care planning and advance directives, as applicable.
- Ethical considerations in end-of-life care.
- Respect for cultural, spiritual and individual preferences.

Bereavement

- Grief responses and bereavement support.
- Nursing support for families before and after death.
- Referral to counselling and community support services.
- Self-care and emotional support for healthcare professionals.

Teaching–learning activities

Case discussions, role play for end-of-life communication ,guest lectures, reflective learning ,palliative care case reviews.

Assessment methods

Case evaluation, reflective journal; viva voce, role-play assessment.

Course outcomes (CO)

CO	Course outcome: the fellow will be able to
CO1	Explain the principles and goals of palliative and hospice care in oncology.
CO2	Assess and manage pain and other distressing symptoms using appropriate nursing interventions
CO3	Communicate sensitively with patients and families about advanced illness ,goals of care and end -of-life needs.
CO4	Apply ethical principles and respect patient autonomy, dignity and preferences in end-of-life care.
CO5	Provide family support, bereavement care and appropriate referrals.

Unit X: Precision Oncology and Genetics

Theory: 10 hours

Learning objectives

- Understand advances in precision oncology.
- Identify genetic and molecular aspects of cancer.
- Explain the role of biomarkers in cancer diagnosis and treatment selection.
- Describe genetic counselling and ethical considerations in cancer care.

Content

Cancer Genetics and Genomics

- Basics of cancer genetics and genomics.
- Oncogenes and tumor suppressor genes.
- Genetic mutations and their role in carcinogenesis.
- Hereditary cancer syndromes and familial cancer risk.

Molecular Diagnostics and Biomarkers

- Molecular diagnostic techniques used in oncology.
- Predictive, prognostic and diagnostic biomarkers.
- Role of biomarkers in treatment selection and monitoring.
- Interpretation of molecular test reports in collaboration with the oncology team.

Precision Oncology

- Principles of personalized cancer therapy.
- Targeted therapies and biomarker-guided treatment.
- Pharmacogenomics and individual variation in treatment response.
- Benefits, limitations and challenges of precision oncology.

Genetic Counselling and Ethical Issues

- Indications for genetic counselling and testing.
- Patient and family education.
- Informed consent, confidentiality and genetic privacy.
- Psychological, familial and ethical implications of genetic testing.
- Referral to appropriate genetic counselling services.

Teaching–learning activities

Lectures; case-based learning; video demonstrations; group discussions; molecular diagnostic case reviews.

Assessment methods

Case presentation, role-play assessment, reflective assignment, viva voce.

Course outcomes (CO)

CO	Course outcome: the fellow will be able to
CO1	Explain the basic principles of cancer genetics, genomics and carcinogenesis.
CO2	Describe oncogenes, tumor suppressor genes, genetic mutations and hereditary cancer syndromes.
CO3	Explain the role of molecular diagnostics and biomarkers in personalized cancer treatment.
CO4	Describe the nursing role in genetic counselling referrals, patient education and ethical decision-making.

Unit XI: Communication in Oncology Nursing

Theory: 10 hours *Simulation laboratory 5 hours*

Learning objectives

- Develop effective communication skills in oncology settings.
- Handle difficult conversations with patients and families sensitively.
- Deliver culturally sensitive and patient-centred care.
- Maintain accurate clinical documentation and reporting.

Content

Principles of Therapeutic Communication

- Concepts and principles of therapeutic communication.
- Verbal and non-verbal communication techniques.
- Active listening, empathy and establishing rapport.
- Communication with patients at different stages of cancer care.

Breaking Bad News

- Principles of communicating difficult or distressing information.
- SPIKES protocol for breaking bad news.
- Responding to emotional reactions and patient concerns.
- Supporting shared decision-making and informed consent.
- Communication in advanced cancer and end-of-life situations.

Communication Barriers

- Physical, psychological, language and cultural barriers.
- Communication with patients experiencing pain, anxiety or distress.
- Strategies for overcoming communication barriers.
- Use of interpreters and appropriate communication aids.

Patient Education Techniques

- Individual and family education.
- Explaining diagnosis, treatment plans, side effects and self-care.
- Teach-back and assessment of patient understanding.
- Promoting treatment adherence and informed participation in care.

Documentation and Reporting

- Principles of accurate, timely and confidential documentation.
- Clinical reporting and handover.
- Documentation of patient education, consent, symptoms and nursing interventions.
- Interprofessional communication and continuity of care.

Teaching–learning activities

Role play; simulation exercises; case discussions; peer feedback; SPIKES protocol practice; patient education demonstrations.

Assessment methods

Case presentation, role-play assessment, reflective assignment, communication skills checklist

Course outcomes (CO)

CO	Course outcome: the fellow will be able to
CO1	Demonstrate therapeutic communication skills appropriate to oncology nursing practice
CO2	Apply the SPIKES protocol and other appropriate approaches during difficult conversations
CO3	Identify communication barriers and provide culturally sensitive patient-centred care.
CO4	Educate patients and families about cancer, treatment, symptom management and self-care
CO5	Maintain accurate, timely and confidential documentation and communicate effectively with the multi disciplinary team.

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8. Clinical Practice: Postings (840 hours)

Clinical area	Weeks	Hours
Medical and Surgical Oncology unit	8	280
Chemotherapy and Radiation oncology unit	4	140
Oncology ICU	4	140
Oncology Emergency Unit	3	100
Hospice and Home based Palliative Care	2	60
Genetic Counselling and Precision Oncology Clinic	3	80
Oncology Research Unit / Clinical Trials Centre	2	40
Total	**26**	**840**

Postings run in the order that suits the roster, but the emergency department posting starts in week 1 and the Emergency and Palliative unit postings follow the area for the practical hours only; theory and simulation hours are in addition to those listed here within the 1,000-hour total. Each posting ends with a guide-verified competency sign-off in the logbook.

8.1 Expected learning in each posting

Posting	Focus
Medical Oncology Unit	Assess, monitor, treatment response and adverse effects and develop individualized care plan
Surgical Oncology Unit	preoperative and postoperative nursing assessments, monitor complications wound care, manage drains, pain assessment & health education
Oncology Intensive Care Unit (ICU)	Assess critically ill cancer patients and recognize deterioration in clinical status,Monitor vital signs, oxygenation, fluid balance and Identify complication emergency interventions,
Chemotherapy Day Care Unit	Verify chemotherapy orders, handling and administration,Monitor infusion reactions, adverse effects and extravasation,Educate patients

Posting	Focus
Radiation Oncology Unit	Preparation of patient, manage common radiation-related side effects,skin care, fatigue management and radiation safety measures relevant to the treatment modality.
Palliative Care Unit	Assess pain and assessment tools, physical, psychological, social and spiritual support, Communicate effectively.
Oncology Research Unit/ Clinical Trials Centre	Explain the principles of oncology nursing research and evidence-based practice, purpose and phases of clinical trials. - Identify how research findings can improve oncology nursing practice.

9. Oncology Care Nursing Skills and Logbook

The fellow keeps a logbook in which every procedure is recorded, signed by the preceptor and verified by the guide. The minimum numbers below apply to the 840 clinical hours; items marked "Sim" may be completed on a manikin or simulator when the clinical case is not available.

9.1 Procedures observed (O)

No.	Procedure	Min.
1	CT scan	2
2	MRI	2
3	Radiation therapy planning and simulation	2
4	Tumor biopsy procedures	2
5	Endoscopy / Colonoscopy for cancer diagnosis	2
6	Fine Needle Aspiration Cytology (FNAC)	2

9.2 Procedures assisted (A)

No.	Procedure	Min.	Sim
1	Chemotherapy drug preparation and administration	5	
2	Central venous catheter insertion	5	Sim
3	Blood transfusion	3	Sim
4	Radiation therapy setup	5	
5	Bone marrow aspiration procedure	10	
6	Biopsy procedures	5	
7	Intravenous cannulation and infusion therapy	10	Sim
8	Administration of targeted therapy / immunotherapy	2	
9	Port-a-Cath insertion and care	2	Sim
10	Lumbar puncture for chemotherapy (intrathecal therapy)	3	
11	Preparation and handling of cytotoxic drugs	5	
12	Monitoring patients during chemotherapy infusion	3	

9.3 Procedures performed (P)

No.	Procedure	Min.	Sim
	Patient assessment in oncology	6	
1	Airway management: oropharyngeal airway	5	Sim

No.	Procedure	Min.	Sim
2	Oxygen therapy	10	
3	CPAP	3	
4	Care of tracheostomy	5	
5	Endotracheal extubation	2	
7	Chemotherapy drug administration (under supervision)	20	
8	Monitoring chemotherapy side effects	7	
9	Pain assessment and management	20	
10	Patient counseling and education	10	
11	Infection prevention practices	10	
12	Nutritional support for cancer patients	10	

9.4 Logbook

- Entry for every procedure: date, patient identification number, procedure, level (O/A/P), setting (clinical/Sim), outcome, reflection, preceptor signature.
- Guide verification at the end of every posting; Fellowship Coordinator reviews at weeks 8, 16 and 24.
- Case log: at least 10 case studies or case presentations with nursing care plans, from the emergency, Medical, Surgical,ICU and Palliative unit.
- The logbook is submitted to the guide one week before the final assessment.

10. Scheme of Assessment

10.1 Final assessment and exit examination

The examination is conducted by the School of Nursing Science and Technology, Malla Reddy Vishwavidyapeeth. The final assessment by the assigned guides has three components.

Component	Details	Marks	Minimum (50%)
I. Multiple choice questions	Written paper; 1 mark per question; blueprint in 10.3	25	12.5
II. Practical skills assessment	Three case scenarios with discussion; 20 marks each	60	30
III. Logbook maintenance	Completeness and regularity; accuracy of entries; guide verification	15	7.5
Total		**100**	**50**

10.2 Criteria to pass

- Minimum 50% in each of the three components and minimum 50% aggregate (50 of 100).
- In terms of the earlier wording: 50% in theory (MCQ) and 50% in practical separately, and 50% in internal assessment. The logbook, which records the continuous assessment by guides and preceptors, is the internal assessment component.
- Minimum 80% attendance in theory, simulation and clinical postings; missed postings must be completed before the final assessment.
- A fellow who fails a component repeats only that component, at the next scheduled assessment within 6 months, once.
- Any additional output or deliverable (for example a case study, audit or teaching session) is decided with the guide and needs prior written approval of the Fellowship Committee.

10.3 MCQ blueprint (25 marks)

Unit	Title	Theory hours	MCQs
1	Introduction to Oncology Nursing	05	2

Unit	Title	Theory hours	MCQs
2	Overview of Cancer: Types, Early Detection	15	2
3	Pain and Symptom Management	05	2
4	Infection Control in Oncology	05	3
5	Cancer Treatment Modalities	10	2
6	Oncological Emergencies	10	3
7	Psychosocial and Holistic Care	05	3
8	Psychosocial and Holistic Care	10	3
9	Palliative and End of Life Care	15	2
10	Precision Oncology and Genetics	10	2
11	Communication in Oncology Nursing	10	1
	Total	**100**	**25**

10.4 Practical skills assessment (60 marks)

Each fellow is assessed on three case scenarios in a simulated or clinical setting, with discussion. The cases are drawn so that the three together cover various cancer disorder and Oncological emergencies. Each case carries 20 marks.

Criterion	Marks
Rapid assessment and triage (primary survey, ABCDE approach, vital signs, history)	5
Prioritisation and nursing care plan	4
Technical Skills in Oncology Interventions	6
Safety, infection control ,Chemotherapy drug administration and Communication	3
Discussion (rationale, complications, evidence)	2
Total per case	**20**

10.5 Logbook assessment (15 marks)

Criterion	Marks
Completeness and regularity	5
Accuracy of entries	5
Guide verification	5
Total	**15**

10.6 Formative assessment

Unit-wise MCQ tests, equipment and skill checklists, case presentations and viva (the assessment methods listed under each unit) are used as formative assessment and feedback during the fellowship; they do not carry marks in the final result. The guide records progress at the end of each posting.

10.7 Award of the certificate

The Fellowship in Oncology Care Nursing certificate is awarded by Malla Reddy Vishwavidyapeeth (Deemed to be University) to a fellow who satisfies the criteria in 10.2, on the recommendation of the Fellowship Committee and under the signature of the Controller of Examinations and the Dean.

11. Infrastructure, Faculty and Quality Assurance

11.1 Clinical facilities

- Teaching hospital with a 24-hour emergency department, Oncology , chemotherapy and radiation unit , Hospice and Research Unit with enough admissions to meet the logbook minimums.
- Affiliation or MoU with ambulance, imaging, EEG and endoscopy services for the observation postings.

11.2 Simulation laboratory

- Adult CPR/ACLS manikin with defibrillator; airway trainers; IV and arterial puncture arms; central line trainer,chemotherapy drug administration training kits
- Infusion and Syringe pump ,stoma care ,wound care and dressing models, pain assessment tools
- Ventilator, multipara monitors, ECG machine, suction, oxygen delivery devices
- Emergency Care simulation and oral care and mucositis management models

11.3 Classroom and learning resources

- Smart classroom, library and digital resources, and online access to current resuscitation and Oncology guidelines
- Learning management system for notes, videos and logbook forms

11.4 Quality assurance

- Fellow feedback on every unit and posting; guide feedback to the committee at mid-point and at the end
- Annual curriculum review by the Fellowship Committee, with updating to current guidelines
- Grievance redressal through the Fellowship Coordinator; escalation to the Dean
- Ethics: informed consent and confidentiality in all patient contact; supervised practice only within the scope of a registered nurse

12. Suggested References

- Brunner and Suddarth's Textbook of Medical-Surgical Nursing
- Lewis's Medical-Surgical Nursing Assessment and Management of Clinical Problems
- Oxford Handbook of Oncology Nursing
- Chemotherapy and Biotherapy Guidelines and Recommendations for Practice – Oncology Nursing Society (ONS).
- Palliative Care Nursing: Quality Care to the End of Life
- Textbooks of oncology nursing, palliative care nursing, and medical-surgical nursing currently in use at SNST.
- WHO guidelines and Government of India/ MoHFW guidelines on cancer prevention and control
- Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and National Cancer Grid (NCG) guidelines on cancer
- Cancer Nursing: Principles and Practice– Martha J . Polovich , KarenH. Olsen, and others

Editions are to be fixed by the Board of Studies.

Annexure A: Final Assessment Sheet – MRV Fellowship

A. Fellow details

Name of fellow	
Fellowship ID	
Institution / department	
Batch / year	

Component I: Multiple choice questions (25 marks)

Number of questions: _____ Marks obtained: _____ / 25 Result: ☐Pass ☐Fail (minimum 50% required)

Component II: Practical skills assessment (60 marks)

Case	Maximum marks	Marks obtained	Examiner signature
Case 1	20		
Case 2	20		
Case 3	20		
Total	**60**		

Result: ☐Pass ☐Fail (minimum 50% required)

Component III: Logbook maintenance (15 marks)

Criteria: completeness and regularity; accuracy of entries; guide verification. Marks obtained: _____ / 15 Result: ☐Pass ☐Fail (minimum 50% required)

Overall assessment summary

Component	Maximum marks	Marks obtained	Pass / fail
MCQs	25		
Practical skills	60		
Logbook	15		
Total	**100**		

Final result: ☐Pass ☐Fail (minimum 50% aggregate required)

Additional outputs (if approved by the Fellowship Committee):

_____

Certification

We certify that the above final assessment and exit examination have been conducted strictly in accordance with the approved MRV Fellowship guidelines.

Date: _____

1. Name of guide / examiner	
Signature	
2. Name of guide / examiner	
Signature	

Annexure B: Logbook Formats

B.1 Procedure log

Date	Patient ID	Procedure	Level (O/A/P)	Clinical / Sim	Outcome and reflection	Preceptor signature

B.2 Posting summary

Posting	Dates	Hours completed	Competencies signed off	Guide signature
Oncology Emergency department				
Medical and Surgical oncology ward				
Oncology Intensive Care Unit				
Chemotherapy Day Care Unit				
Radiation Oncology Unit				
Palliative Care unit				
Oncology OPD & imaging				

B.3 Case study / presentation log

No.	Date	Diagnosis / condition	Area	Guide remarks and signature

Annexure C: Certificate of Completion (format)

MALLA REDDY VISHWAVIDYAPEETH

(Deemed to be University)

This is to certify that

_____

Fellowship ID _____ has successfully completed the 26-week

FELLOWSHIP IN ONCOLOGY CARE NURSING

at the School of Nursing Science and Technology, and has passed the final assessment and exit examination held in _____ with a total of _____ / 100 marks.

Date of issue: _____	Place: Hyderabad
Controller of Examinations	Dean, School of Nursing Science and Technology