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Citation:

CLARKSON, Melanie and KHINE, Ric (2025). Developing a Multi-Professional Education and Training Framework for Non-Surgical Oncology: Conceptual Foundations and Vision for Development [abstract only]. Radiography, 31 (Supp1): 103050. [Article]

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Developing a Multi-Professional Education and Training Framework for Non-Surgical Oncology: Conceptual Foundations and Vision for Development

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Abstract

Objectives

Advanced practice roles in non-surgical oncology have evolved organically over decades. Despite the establishment of these roles, education and training have been inconsistent, with many practitioners completing modules that are not directly relevant but are required for a broader master's degree.¹ A scoping review in the late 2010s identified the need for a standardized education and training framework to provide structured, high-quality, and specific knowledge exchange. Consequently, the development of the capability framework for advanced practice in non-surgical oncology began in 2020. Throughout the next four years, the framework moved through several interactions underpinned by an evidence-based approach: a local phenomenology study,² national consultation³ and the inclusion of the patient voice.

Key Findings

After each stage, the framework was reviewed before the next step. The overarching themes were:

- Understanding of advanced practice
- Adopting the framework and applying the knowledge, skills and attributes
- Involvement of those with lived experience in training and assessment
- Supporting historical practitioners
- Wellbeing of the trainee
- Inclusion of all professions and specialisms
- Barriers to Advanced Practice
- Enablers to Advanced Practice
- The four pillars of practice and the expected standard of training

Conclusion

The findings indicate that advanced practice in non-surgical oncology requires clear educational pathways, robust governance, and enhanced support structures for trainees and supervisors.

This framework offers a structured, sustainable approach to training advanced practitioners across multiple oncology specialisms.

Implications for Practice

The implementation of this capability framework is expected to significantly enhance the quality and consistency of training for advanced practitioners in non-surgical oncology. By providing clear educational pathways and robust governance, the framework ensures that practitioners are well-prepared to meet the complex demands of their roles.

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