

February 2019

HEALTHCARE HIGHLIGHTS

The Rural AHEC Student Newsletter



February's Healthcare Career Focus:

Oncology Nurse

Oncology nurses care for cancer patients and their families. They may work in a hospital, clinic, or private practice. Oncology nurses continuously learn new skills treatments, and procedures to keep up with medical advances. This career requires compassion and courage, but can be very rewarding.

What might I do as an Oncology Nurse?

Care for critically ill and/or chronically ill patients

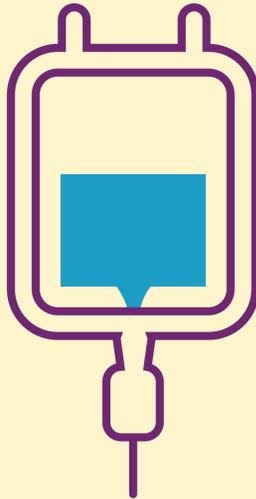
Administer treatments, such as chemotherapy

Discuss and administer new methods of cancer treatments and/or medications, monitoring patients' progress

Talk to patients about effectively managing their symptoms and treatment side effects, providing a supportive atmosphere for patients and families

Educate patients about various treatments or procedures, ensuring that patients understand their options

Work with members of an interdisciplinary team to coordinate care for patients



How do I become an Oncology Nurse?

- Register and obtain a license to be an RN in New York State
- Graduate from a NYSED approved Oncology Certified Nursing (OCN) program
- Pass the exam to become an OCN
- Continue your education to renew your nursing license

Average Salary:
(Dec. 2018):

\$62,000—\$78,000

What is it really like to be an Oncology Nurse?

Unlike many healthcare careers, Oncology Nursing often follows a “business hours” schedule, a plus for those who want to work and raise a family.

Becoming a traveling oncology nurse is also an option.

<https://www.americanmobile.com/nursezone/nursing-news/7-best-things-about-being-an-oncology-nurse/>



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Read some perspectives in this emagazine article

<https://www.oncologynurseadvisor.com/advisor-forum/perspectives-on-being-an-oncology-nurse/article/453324/>

Meet Tanisha in this Johnson and Johnson video “A Day in the Life—Tanisha (Oncology Nurse)”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A2qwuTEUCFU>



“Oncology is a compassion, a passion, a calling, a vocation—not a job. Oncology is a joy that enlarges your life and allows you to live in other lives and to grow spiritually as a person.”

“Oncology patients have taught me how to deal with life—how to appreciate situations and be thankful, how to be a more caring person.”

Anonymous Oncology Nurses

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Please contact us if you have questions about healthcare career opportunities or educational pathways to healthcare careers!

Western New York Rural Area Health Education Center (R-AHEC) is one of nine centers in the New York State Area Health Education Center (NYSAHEC) organization. Our mission is to improve health and healthcare through education.

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