

February 2018

Dear Colleague

February 15th is International Childhood Cancer Day. We would like to ask for your support in highlighting the critical importance of nursing in the care of children with cancer.

The SIOP Paediatric Oncology in Developing Countries (PODC) Nursing Working Group has written a set of Baseline Standards for the provision of nursing care to children with cancer in low- and middle-income countries (L&MICs). We are writing to ask your organization to endorse these standards to demonstrate international support for their adoption in all institutions caring for children and young people with cancer.

SIOP's vision is that all children and young adults have access to state-of-the-art treatment and care, and that no child should die of cancer. The survival of children with cancer in high-income countries is now almost 80%; however, the majority of children with cancer live in L&MICs, and their chances of survival are often less than 20%.

Expert paediatric oncology nurses are recognized as fundamental to providing high quality, safe and effective care. Nursing quality assessments from paediatric oncology units in LMIC consistently document a lack of specialized nursing education, adequate nurse staffing levels and the basic resources for nursing care.

The SIOP PODC Baseline Standards reflect the elements of quality nursing care essential to promote optimal patient outcomes and were published as a 'Position Statement' in the Lancet Oncology in June 2014. The SIOP Board, and a number of influential national and international organizations have already endorsed the standards. A summary document outlining the Baseline Standards is being sent to you along with this letter. The position statement and a recent more comprehensive publication are referenced at the foot of this letter.

The Baseline Standards have been well received by individuals and organizations working with children with cancer in L&MIC settings who look for international support in improving their nursing care. Further work is underway to develop an instrument with measurable criteria for each standard, in order to promote their use to support access to high-quality nursing care across the world.

If you choose to endorse the standards, please confirm this to Susanne Wollaert, from the SIOP Secretariat: swollaert@siop-online.org. Please send Susanne a copy of the logo of your organization (if you have one), which we will use in a document identifying those organizations which have endorsed the Baseline Standards. Please find below additional suggestions as to how you might publicise the standards on your own website, or to your members. Please do not hesitate to contact Susanne if you have any questions about the content of this letter, or the Baseline Standards themselves. We hope to receive a positive response from you in the forthcoming days.

With all good wishes

Rachel Hollis, on behalf of the SIOP PODC Nursing Working Group



References

Day S, Hollis R, Challinor J, Bevilacqua G, Bosomprah E. *Baseline standards for paediatric oncology nursing care in low to middle income countries: position statement of the SIOP PODC Nursing Working Group*. **Lancet Oncology**. 2014; 15(7):681-682 PMID: 24872097.

Day S, Challinor J, Hollis R, Abramovitz L, Hanaratri Y, Punjwani R. *Paediatric oncology nursing care in low-and middle-income countries: a need for baseline standards*. **Cancer Control**. 2015; 111-116.

Suggestions for organisations endorsing the SIOP 'Baseline Nursing Standards'

The 'Endorsement Document' will be hosted on the SIOP Website, with notification of all organisations that have endorsed the standards. Please send Susanne Wollaert a copy of the logo of your organization (if you have one), which we will use in a document identifying those organisations which have endorsed the Baseline Standards; swollaert@siop-online.org.

In order to celebrate your endorsement of the SIOP PODC Baseline Standards, we ask you to consider ways of highlighting them to your members, and to external partners. Here are some suggestions:

- 'Post' the summary document we have supplied on your website, with a statement that you are endorsing the standards
- A 'spotlight' to this addition to your website for a certain length of time
- Reference to the SIOP PODC Baseline Standards in email 'shots'; newsletters or other communications with your members (we will happily provide materials for you)
- A link to the two articles we have provided about the SIOP PODC Baseline Standards
- Share your Endorsement on social media – Facebook/Twitter/platforms your organization uses
- A letter to Ministries of Health in your organization's countries stating that you are endorsing the SIOP PODC Baseline Standards
- A letter to hospitals or medical center administrations in your organization's countries stating that you are endorsing the Baseline Standards
- A letter to nursing schools in your organization's countries to promote the inclusion of specialised oncology programs and stating that you are endorsing these SIOP PODC Baseline Standards

