September2018

Dear Colleague

In many countries of the world September marks Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. We would like to use this opportunity to ask for your support in highlighting the critical importance of nursing in improving the care of children with cancer across the globe.

The vision of the International Society of Paediatric Oncology (SIOP) is that all children and young adults should 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 Low and Middle Income Countries (LMIC) 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 to children with cancer and their families. 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 Paediatric Oncology in Developing Countries (PODC) Nursing Working Group has developed a set of Baseline Standards for the provision of nursing care to children with cancer in LMIC. These 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 LMIC settings who look for international support in improving their nursing care. Further work is underway to promote their adoption across the world.

We are writing to you to request that your organization endorses these standards to demonstrate international support for their adoption in all institutions caring for children and young people with cancer. 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 which we will add to the SIOP website as one of the organizations which have endorsed the Baseline Standards <https://siop-online.org/nursing-baseline-standards/>

Please find below additional suggestions as to how you might publicize the standards on your own website, or to your members. Please do not hesitate to contact Susanne or ourselves 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 FRCN (UK) and Yuliana Hanaratri (Indonesia)

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 wishing to endorse the SIOP ‘Baseline Nursing Standards’**

The nursing pages of the SIOP Website highlights all those organisations that have endorsed the baseline standards <https://siop-online.org/nursing-baseline-standards/>

Please send Susanne Wollaert by email [swollaert@siop-online.org](mailto:swollaert@siop-online.org) a copy of the logo of your organization which we will add to the website to confirm your valuable support.

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/any other platforms your organization uses; we have our own Twitter account @Nusbaselinestds

• 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