

Education for the Oncology Nurse: A Literature Review

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ABSTRACT

- This literature review examines the benefits and necessity of standardizing chemotherapy education for oncology nurses.
- Since chemotherapy education is not standardized, nurses can receive different education depending on their facility.
- Chemotherapy regimens and drugs must be administered in specific ways, and knowledge deficits may result in deadly administration errors.
- Variations in oncology nurses' chemotherapy education directly impact the nurses themselves and their patients.
- Patient and nurse satisfaction and outcomes are significantly influenced by varying educational standards across different facilities.
- Establishing standardized chemotherapy education ensures consistent training and competency levels among oncology nurses nationwide.

Keywords: oncology nurses, chemotherapy, biotherapy, education, standardization, oncology, safety, certification



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INTRO / GOALS / OBJECTIVES

- This integrated literature review aims to provide evidence-based information on the benefits and necessity of providing chemotherapy/biotherapy education to nurses before administering these hazardous medications.
- Differing levels of education can mean a lack of standardization of care and could lead to errors in medication administration or assessment details
- A lack of standardization of chemotherapy education is an ongoing issue in oncology.



THEMES

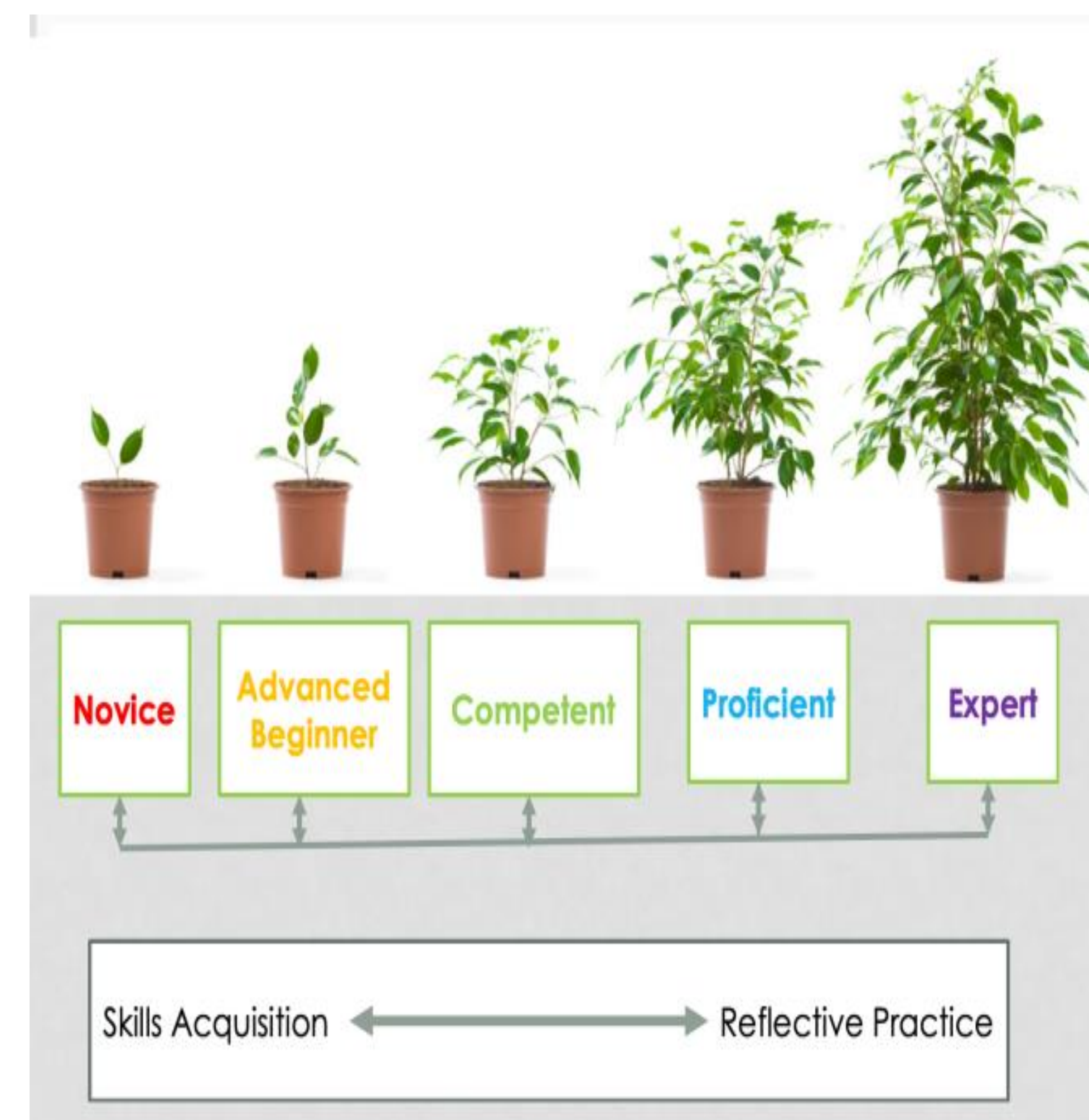
- Chemotherapy Education
- Patient Safety
- Oncology Nursing
- Continuing Education

METHODOLOGY

- Electronic Databases
 - CINAHL
 - Academic Search Premier
 - APA PsycInfo
 - Academic Search Premier
- Inclusion Criteria
 - Academic Journals written in English
 - Articles published between 2007 and 2023
 - 20 articles included in this literature review
 - Initial search for articles included the keywords nurses, chemotherapy, and education
 - A second search included nurse-led interventions and patient outcomes

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

- Benner's Novice to Expert Theory (1982)



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CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Further studies should examine results from implementing the same type of chemotherapy education, whether a specific course or application, in different settings.
- IT chemotherapy education could be an entirely new area for further research.
- Due to the high-risk nature of chemotherapy and the vulnerability of oncology patients, it is imperative for oncology nurses to possess up-to-date education and knowledge of safety protocols.
- By receiving adequate education, nurses can deliver high-quality care to oncology patients while maintaining a safe environment.
- The need for chemotherapy education standardization is vital to establish consistent training and competency levels for oncology nurses nationwide



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References

Please see the references on the provided handout.