



***What are the experiences and perceptions of New Zealand oncology nurses, in managing pain for adult patients with cancer, in the hospital ward setting?***

**PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET**

**Researcher Introduction**

My name is Pauline Yorke and I am a registered nurse with 14 years of experience, working across the areas of ICU and oncology. I am currently completing my Master of Nursing degree, with this research report forming the final aspect of my studies.

During my time of nursing in an oncology hospital ward setting, I have come across numerous challenges in the assessment and management of pain for patients with cancer. Working through these challenges, and reflecting on my practice with my colleagues, highlighted a number of positive and negative aspects, to providing effective patient care. This experience therefore generated my research interest into this topic.

**Project Description and Invitation**

Pain associated with cancer is one of the most feared symptoms of oncology patients. Yet, literature indicates that cancer pain is also significantly undermanaged worldwide. Numerous quantitative studies conducted overseas, have used surveys focusing on the knowledge and attitude of oncology nurses, towards cancer pain management. The majority of these concluded that nurses had inadequate knowledge and a poor attitude, which contributed to a negative pain experience for cancer patients.

What this qualitative research will endeavor to explore is the perceptions of New Zealand oncology nurses; giving voice to the positive experiences as well as highlighting the negative issues faced, in providing effective pain management to cancer patients in our society. By listening to your personal stories, I am interested to see if any themes are raised that are not captured in a standardized quantitative survey format. Therefore, I would like to invite you to share your thoughts with me on this topic, so that the voices of New Zealand oncology nurses are heard and the challenges better understood. It is hoped that findings from this research may generate suggestions to formulate a change to our nursing approach and practice, that would ultimately improve the quality of life for our cancer patients in pain.



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### **Participant Identification and Recruitment**

For this study, participants will be recruited via the NZNO Cancer Nurses' College website and social media page (Facebook). A flyer advertising the research will be posted on these forums, asking for volunteers to participate in the study. Registered nurses working in New Zealand, are eligible to participate, if they are employed in an oncology in-patient hospital setting and provide pain management to cancer patients. Those working in hospice, palliative care, out-patient settings or other areas of the hospital, are ineligible for this particular study. As this is a discrete, small-scale research project, the aim is to recruit 4-6 volunteers who meet the stated inclusion criteria. There is no financial compensation or reimbursement for participants, but their time taken to partake in the research is much appreciated. There are no perceived discomforts or risks to participants as a result of participating.

### **Project Procedures**

Eligible volunteers, who consent to participating in this research project, will be asked to complete a short pre-interview demographic questionnaire. A time that is suitable to both participant and researcher, will be arranged to conduct a semi-structured interview in the month of June, 2023. This will take place as a virtual meeting, via Zoom, with interviews lasting approximately 45 minutes. Interviews will be recorded for the purpose of transcribing and subsequent identification of common themes, from the perspectives and experiences shared by participants.

### **Data Management**

To ensure the privacy and confidentiality of participants, all data and related documents will be stored securely on the researchers' password protected computer. Pseudonyms will be used to ensure anonymity of participants within the research document. The information gathered will be used for the sole purpose of this research report and all recordings of the interviews will be deleted once the project is completed. Participants will have the opportunity to review the transcripts of their interview recordings if they so wish.

### **Participant's Rights**

You are under no obligation to accept this invitation. If you decide to participate, you have the right to:

- decline to answer any particular question;
- withdraw from the study up to the point of data analysis;
- ask any questions about the study at any time during participation;
- provide information on the understanding that your name will not be used unless you give permission to the researcher;
- be given access to a summary of the project findings when it is concluded
- ask for recording to be stopped at any time during the interview



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**Project Contacts**

If you have any questions regarding this study, please do not hesitate to contact either of the following people for more information.

- Research Student: Pauline Yorke  
Email: [pauline\\_yorke@yahoo.co.nz](mailto:pauline_yorke@yahoo.co.nz)
- Research Supervisor: Dr. Sarah Williams (Massey University Auckland campus)  
Email: [s.williams1@massey.ac.nz](mailto:s.williams1@massey.ac.nz)

This project has been evaluated by peer review and judged to be low risk (# 4000027196). Consequently, it has not been reviewed by one of the University's Human Ethics Committees. The researcher(s) named above are responsible for the ethical conduct of this research. If you have any concerns about the conduct of this research that you wish to raise with someone other than the researcher(s), please contact Prof Craig Johnson, Director, Research Ethics, telephone 06 356 9099 x 85271, email [humanethics@massey.ac.nz](mailto:humanethics@massey.ac.nz)