

Multiple Myeloma Education

Results from the ACE program's digital, serial learning approach

Beth Faiman, PhD, MSN, APRN-BC, AOCN®, Sandra Kurtin, ANP-C, AOCN®, Jocelyn Timko, BS, and Linda Gracie-King, MHS

BACKGROUND: Understanding aspects of multiple myeloma (MM) from drug delivery to side effect management and survivorship are critical to patient management. The Advanced Clinical Educator (ACE) program in MM combined live and web-based activities to educate nurses to gain mastery of content and achieve ACE status.

OBJECTIVES: The primary objectives were to improve ACE candidates' practice skills and knowledge of MM and prepare them to educate others.

METHODS: 20 ACE candidates were paired with an advisor and educated through a structured learning program. The RealMeasure® methodology measures the effect on intended learner cohorts, analyzing pre- and post-assessment data, as well as follow-up data, with a multidimensional metric that serves as a surrogate marker for performance.

FINDINGS: Learners from the ACE program and a national cohort improved substantially from baseline averages at pretest to high levels of proficiency at post-test. This curriculum model fosters subject matter expertise, leadership, professional networking, and peer-to-peer learning.

KEYWORDS

multiple myeloma; patient education; nurse education; survivorship

DIGITAL OBJECT IDENTIFIER

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THE DIAGNOSIS AND MANAGEMENT OF MULTIPLE MYELOMA (MM) continue to undergo rapid evolution. Insight into the biologic underpinnings of the disease has led to numerous recent drug discoveries (U.S. Food and Drug Administration, 2018). Nurse navigators, advanced practice providers, and bedside nurses are charged with integrating these changes into the management of MM and play a critical role in educating the patient and his or her caregivers. The first Multiple Myeloma Mentorship Program (MMMP) in 2009 was well received and this, as well as subsequent programs, highlighted the continued need for structured nurse education in MM (Faiman, 2011; Faiman, Kurtin, Timko, & Gracie-King, 2017; Faiman, Miceli, Richards, & Tariman, 2012).

In partnership with AXIS Medical Education and RealCME, two nurses with expertise in MM developed a continuing education program to evaluate data from two curricula. The primary objectives of the program were to improve nursing knowledge, practice skills, and level of performance in the diagnosis, treatment, and management of patients with MM, and to build nurses' skills as subject matter experts and speakers in this therapeutic area. Therefore, the program was targeted primarily toward nurses involved in the treatment and management of patients with MM. One curriculum, a three-activity serial learning program, was offered to a national audience (the national cohort group). The other included a select group of nurses invited to participate as Advanced Clinical Educator (ACE) program candidates in a mandatory eight-activity intensive with three modules. The ACE candidates' components included a focused, interactive, live, peer-to-peer educational experience culminating in ACE status. ACE status denotes an individual's mastery of the content provided in the ACE program, as well as demonstration of effective presentation of the content to peers. Content was presented in three modules (see Figure 1).

Education Groups

ACE Candidates

From March 2016 to July 2017, 20 ACE candidates were paired with one of five experienced MM advisors. The ACE candidates were identified based on geographic location and desire to participate. Advisors (also known as mentors) were defined as MM clinical experts who coach, teach, guide, and empower the ACE candidates to achieve educational milestones that can