Introduction

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Nurses make an important contribution to meeting the needs of young people affected by cancer at all stages of their cancer journey. Whether as clinical nurse specialists who have regular contact with this patient group or as nurses who may only have one-off contact, whatever the setting, there is an opportunity to be sensitive and responsive to the individual needs of young people.

Young people with cancer look to their healthcare team to provide them with the support and assistance they need as they try to simultaneously negotiate their cancer-related concerns whilst achieving their normal developmental milestones. In recognising the importance of developmentally appropriate care, nurses need to acknowledge a young person’s emotional maturity, social skills, and personal relationships.

A diagnosis of cancer at this critical life stage can interrupt normal development pathways; this has given rise to the importance of delivering care that is better orientated to the needs of young people.

This education program will provide you with foundational information and knowledge of the unique needs of young people with cancer and the opportunity for nurses to better identify and meet the physical, practical and psychosocial needs of this group.