Palliative care continues to be an increasingly misunderstood treatment, especially as it pertains to cancer care. The National Institute of Nursing Research has a relatively new initiative addressing the different aspects of palliative care with distinctions between hospice and palliative care elements. Gain insight on this initiative and discover how oncology nurses can have a substantial role in the next steps for care.

Target Audience: Registered Nurses

Level of Content: Intermediate

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Objectives:
At the end of this session, participants will be able to:
1. Describe the latest information regarding palliative care from the National Institutes of Health.
2. Identify yourself as a content expert for palliative care and end-of-life issues to educate elected officials.
3. Demonstrate ONS’s health policy agenda in the federal legislative and regulatory arenas and inform oncology nurses about palliative care options within the Affordable Care Act.

Content Outline:
I. Defining the current healthcare policy environment
   A. Legislative
   B. Regulatory
      1. Bills and laws
      2. Agency initiatives
         a. Nursing/cancer/reimbursement
         b. Research/implementation

II. Nurses’ role in defining palliative care
   A. Educating elected officials/federal regulators
   B. National Institutes of Health NINR initiative
      1. ONS’ co-sponsored legislation
      2. NINR palliative care program
         a. HR 1666/S 2800
         b. End-of-life care