Clinical Research Priorities in Oncology Nursing: An Australian Perspective

For which topic were research priorities identified?
oncology nursing

In which location was the research priority setting conducted?
Australia - Australia

Why was it conducted at all?
The care of people who have cancer is becoming increasingly complex, and nurses are required to respond to a growing number of patient needs. ' Oncology nurses have taken an interest in a number of areas, including cancer prevention, health education and various clinical management techniques. Internationally, nurses are working towards development of a substantive knowledge base for practice in oncology. This process requires concentrated research across a range of areas. However, opportunities for investigating problems that impact on nurses practising in, and on people who use, oncology-nursing services, are diverse and numerous.

What was the objective?
to identify areas for research in oncology nursing that have potential for improvement in patient care and to advise about nursing-research policy and priorities that have relevance to areas of patients' needs

What was the outcome?
a ranking list of 28 research questions

How long did the research prioritization take?
No information provided.

Which methods were used to identify research priorities?
Delphi

How were the priorities for research identified exactly?
Step 1: participants were asked to develop five priority research questions in 5 areas: (1) Clinical research that is of the highest value for patients. (2) Clinical research that is of the highest value for CNC. (3) Clinical research that would provide improved community care. (4) Research that would facilitate health promotion and disease prevention. (5) Research that would be of value for CNC professional needs. 148 items suggested. Step 2: data processing: editing suggestions. Step 3: Delphi round 2: survey with 148 items: participants were asked to indicate whether nursing should take a leadership role (yes or no) and to rate each question. Step 4: Delphi round 3: survey with 53 items (median rating of 6 or higher in round 2), participants were asked to re-rate and briefly explain their reason for allocating a high priority

Which stakeholders took part?
10 clinical nurse consultants (CNCs) representing 10 area health authorities.

How were stakeholders recruited?
The participants were drawn from 10 area health authorities across New South Wales, where CNC are classified as experts in their area of expertise. They are registered nurses who have an average of 10 years' experience in their clinical specialty.

Were stakeholders actively involved or did they just participate?
Stakeholders were mere participants of the research prioritization process; they were not actively involved in the process.