



Penn Radiation Oncology



WHAT IS ONCOLOGY?

Oncology is the field of medicine devoted to cancer. In clinical oncology, there are three primary areas:

- **Medical oncology**—the treatment of cancer with medicine including chemotherapy
- **Surgical oncology**—the surgical aspects of cancer such as biopsy
- **Radiation oncology**—the treatment of cancer with radiation

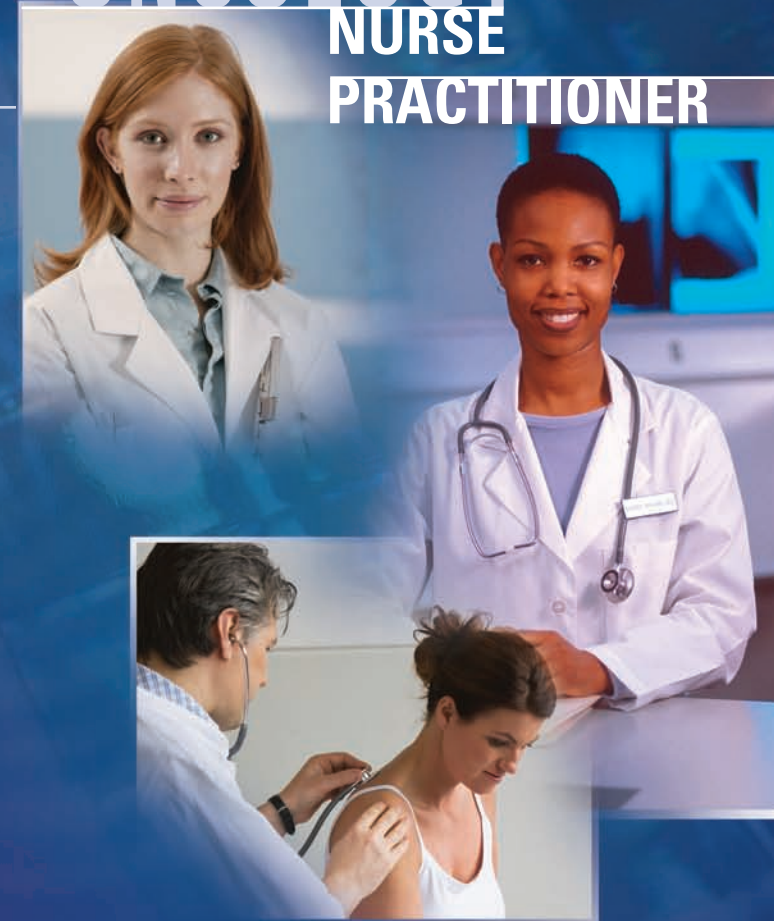
Typically, when a tumor is discovered, a patient will first see a surgeon. The surgeon will perform a biopsy of the tumor and send the tissue to a pathologist for evaluation. If a cancer diagnosis is made, an oncologist will evaluate the patient to determine the stage of the cancer, discuss various treatment options and recommend the best course of treatment. Oncology nurse practitioners are integral members of the health care team in all these settings to provide the highest quality of care.

LOCATION

**Ruth and Raymond Perelman Center
for Advanced Medicine**

3400 Civic Center Boulevard
Philadelphia, PA 19104

ONCOLOGY NURSE PRACTITIONER



Penn Medicine

800.789.PENN PennMedicine.org

PENN'S DEPARTMENT OF RADIATION ONCOLOGY

IS A NATIONAL LEADER IN
Clinical Care, Research and Education.

WHAT IS A NURSE PRACTITIONER?

A nurse practitioner (NP) is a registered nurse (RN) with a master's or doctoral degree in nursing and specialized clinical training. They are licensed by the state in which they practice, and have a national board certification. Nurse practitioners in Pennsylvania practice according to the rules and regulations of the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing and must pass a national nurse certification examination in their area of specialty.

Nurse practitioners are trained to treat both acute and chronic conditions through comprehensive history taking, physical exams, prescribing medications and ordering tests and therapies for patients within their scope of practice. Due to their high level of education and training, nurse practitioners see patients independently, but a physician is always available for collaboration.



WHAT IS AN ONCOLOGY NURSE PRACTITIONER?

An oncology nurse practitioner is a registered nurse who has completed specific, advanced nursing education and training in the diagnosis and management of cancer. They use their expert nursing knowledge and skills to care for patients. Some of the services they provide include:

- **Obtaining medical histories and performing physical examinations**
- **Ordering and interpreting diagnostic studies, such as lab work and x-rays**
- **Prescribing medications and other cancer treatments**
- **Diagnosing and treating cancer related problems**
- **Performing select procedures**
- **Providing symptom management and psychosocial support**
- **Promoting health through individualized patient and family education**
- **Referrals for patients to other healthcare professionals and specialists**
- **Coordinating care**
- **Assisting patients in making decisions regarding their health care**

QUALITY CARE FROM NURSE PRACTITIONERS

Nurse practitioners provide high quality care and are covered by most insurance companies. Patients report a high level of satisfaction with the care they receive from a nurse practitioner.

ABOUT PENN RADIATION ONCOLOGY

Penn Radiation Oncology offers state-of-the-art evaluation, treatment and follow-up care for patients requiring radiation therapy as part of their overall care. Penn Radiation Oncology is a national leader in the development of advanced treatment approaches. Our patient care is backed by a nationally recognized research and teaching program and our department's research initiatives consistently rank at the very top in National Institutes of Health (NIH) research funding.

APPOINTMENTS AND INFORMATION

To schedule an appointment with Penn Radiation Oncology or for more information, please call **800.789.PENN (7366)** or visit **PennMedicine.org**.