Oncology Pharmacy Technician Association (OPTA)
National Community Oncology Dispensing Association, Inc.

Background
• Oncology Pharmacy Technicians are integral contributors to the care of cancer patients
• In an effort to promote higher quality patient care, the National Community Oncology Dispensing Association, Inc. (NCODA), created the Pharmacy Technician Committee in 2018
• In late 2018, the Pharmacy Technician Committee evolved into OPTA and became its own Association
• OPTA is the first and only association specifically for Oncology Pharmacy Technicians dedicated to supporting and encouraging their professional development
• Focus includes setting the standards for oncology pharmacy technicians
• A growing group of 120+ peers nationwide

Objective
• Create a platform for connecting oncology pharmacy technicians
• Exchange practical information around effective practices
• Develop Quality Standards
• Create an accreditation process for oncology pharmacy technicians

Format
• Monthly OPTA Webinars
• Monthly Leadership Meetings
• Discussion Board engagement
• Regularly scheduled Email Updates: “The OPTA Review”
• Accreditation Initiative

Monthly Webinars
• First Wednesday of each month at 3PM EST
• Three content areas (topics change monthly):
  – Drug Update
  – Peer Presentation
  – Technician Practice in Focus
• Accreditation Update
• Continuing Education resources

Examples of Content on OPTA Webinars:

Medicare Low Income Subsidy: Levels of assistance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income level</th>
<th>Full Low Income</th>
<th>Partial Low Income</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Premium 100% coverage</td>
<td>Premium 25-75% coverage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Deductible $0</td>
<td>Deductible $85.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Prescription co-pay</td>
<td>Prescription co-pay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Genentech $5.50</td>
<td>Genentech Bound $10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Celestase $3.50</td>
<td>Celestase $8.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Peer Presentation: Gina Buzzell, McFarland Clinic, IA

Technician Practice in Focus: Christine Robinson, Clearview Cancer Institute, AL

Initiatives
• Creating an accreditation for certification of oncology pharmacy technicians
• Process underway with growing membership body
• Continuing Education
  • Developing oncology pharmacy technician specific courses that support the OPTA Quality Standards
• Networking & Community Building
  • Emails, Webinars, Discussion Board
  • NCODA meetings: Fall Summit and Spring Forum
  • Technician specific sessions

Discussion
• OPTA is the leading organization in the professional development of oncology pharmacy technicians
• Complimentary Membership
• Exchange of knowledge and effective practices
• Get involved today to help shape the future
• Continuing to build infrastructure for the following:
  • Continuing Education specific to oncology pharmacy technicians
  • Board Positions for Oncology Pharmacy Technicians
  • Personnel and administration

Information
Link: https://www.ncoda.org/oncology-pharmacy-technician-association-opta/
For Interested Applicants for OPTA:
1. Register for NCODA membership
2. Log-in to NCODA and Apply for OPTA