

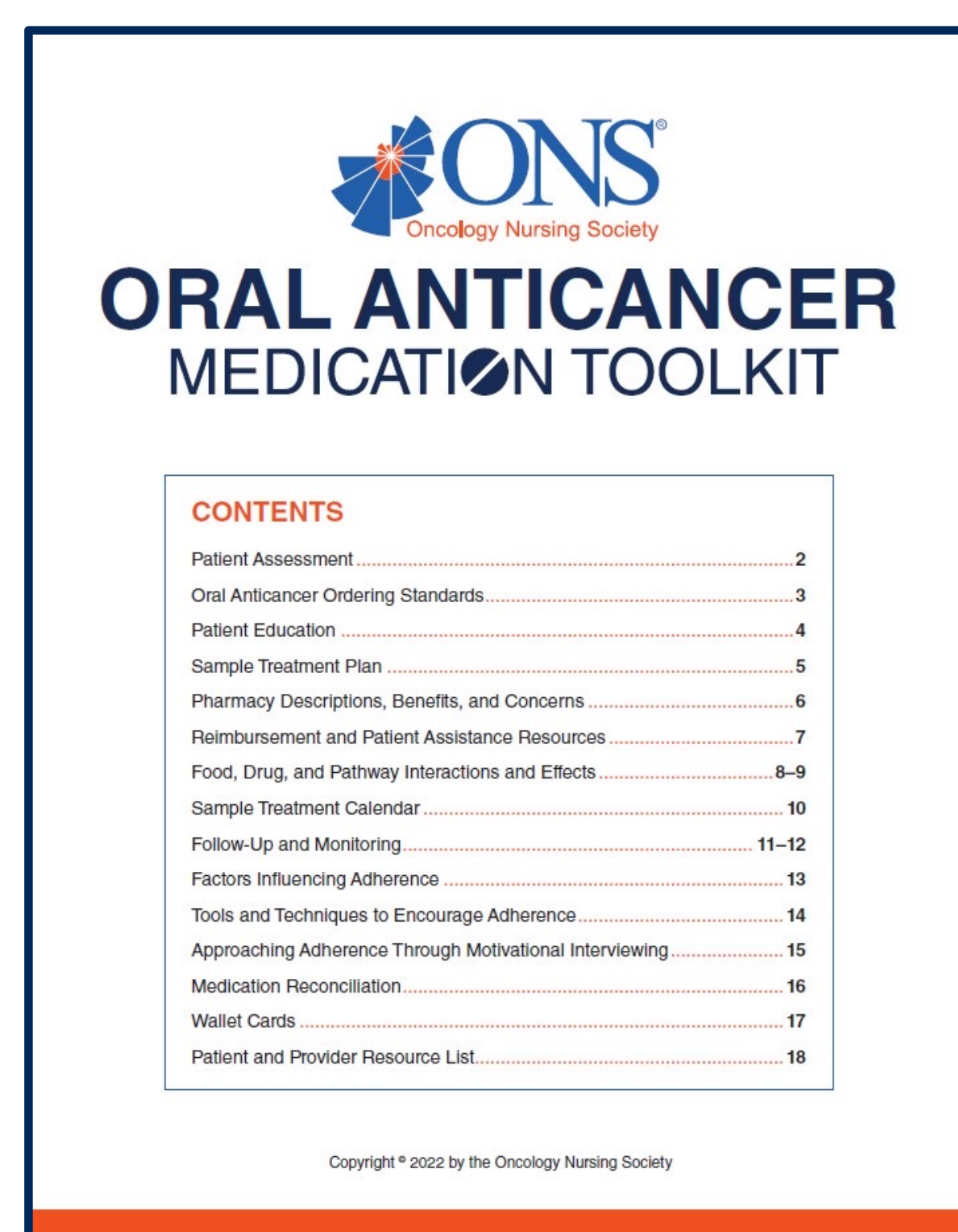
## BACKGROUND

Oral anticancer medications are widely used in cancer care, offering patients convenience and autonomy. They are also high-risk medications with a narrow therapeutic index and significant side effect profiles, requiring strict adherence to maintain efficacy and safety. However, patient adherence in multiple studies remains low despite national safety standards encouraging healthcare providers to monitor for initial and ongoing adherence.

## ORAL ANTICANCER MEDICATION TOOLKIT

This project sought to collect practitioner input as part of the redesign of an evidence-based oral anticancer medication toolkit for healthcare professionals to use in practice to facilitate assessment and ongoing monitoring of patient adherence.

The redesigned toolkit was published in 2022, providing a variety of resources.



CLICK THIS QR CODE TO CREATE A FREE ACCOUNT AT ONS AND DOWNLOAD A COPY OF THE ONS ORAL ANTICANCER MEDICATION TOOLKIT



## METHODS



### Pre-Implementation Survey

13 Nurses and pharmacists completed a pre-implementation survey with multiple choice and open-ended questions, measuring satisfaction of the prior toolkit and providing suggestions for new resources.



### Focus Groups

Two virtual focus groups built upon the survey results with interprofessional conversations regarding practitioner needs. In total, 10 nurses and 4 pharmacists shared their experience.

Findings from both the survey and focus groups were summarized and studied and found to reveal common themes.

## RESULTS

Five themes emerged from the data. Let's explore them in more depth.

### Health Equity

Healthcare professionals have identified a need for tools and resources to consistently evaluate and support health equity. Appraisal of a patient's health literacy level is integral in their ability to obtain supportive medications, communicate with the healthcare team, and adhere to an oral anticancer medication regimen. Resources are needed in multiple languages.

### Financial Support

Dedicated and knowledgeable financial professionals are needed to help patients navigate the financial barriers to obtain oral anticancer medications. A training program, including knowledge of insurance, government programs, foundations, and other financial resources is needed. Payor communication is time-consuming, and it is challenging for nurses and pharmacists to integrate into patient care.

## RESULTS (CONTINUED)

### Assessment Tools

A process of pre-treatment and ongoing patient assessment is needed in practice. Challenges and resources continue to evolve throughout a patient's treatment, and the development of reliable tools could help minimize barriers to adherence.

### Team Communication

Effective team communication is essential in the care of patients receiving oral anticancer medications. A consistent method of relaying and documenting information among those involved in patient care helps to inform team members of key information, such as patient and caregiver education, toxicities and their management, adherence monitoring, medication changes and transitions of care.

### Roles and Responsibilities

Clear delineation of roles and responsibilities of the healthcare team members, including nurses, around oral anticancer medications is needed. Identification of those providing patient education, routine follow-up, and toxicity management will support communication with patients and their caregivers.

## CONCLUSION

This work reinforced the need for involvement of practicing clinicians in the development of tools for patient management, while identifying further needs to support the care of patients taking oral anticancer medications. Nurses and their colleagues can use this information to improve patient's adherence to their cancer treatment.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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