Advancing Nursing Practice in Cancer and Palliative Care

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Edited by
David Clarke, Jean Flanagan and
Kevin Kendrick

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Dedication

As work on the book was being finished, our friend, colleague and co-editor Kevin Kendrick died suddenly and prematurely. Kevin was a devoted husband and father, a committed nurse and a dedicated writer and editor. He was also a passionate Liverpool FC supporter. Working on this book with Kevin represented many things. Editing this book was professionally satisfying, Kevin was instrumental in its initial development and contributed throughout the painstaking process of editing. As novices to the processes of book production it was rewarding to develop skills in this area in conjunction with a more seasoned editor. Like many other editors we would say that the process represented many months, indeed years of hard work and while this is true it somehow never felt like a chore. Most of all, the experience of editing this book with Kevin Kendrick was great fun. We are grateful for the time spent working together on this project.

David Clarke and Jean Flanagan

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Preface

There is no doubt that the scope and nature of cancer and palliative care nursing is expanding and extending. The central aim of this book is to unravel the intricacies of extended and expanded practice in this field. As cancer and palliative care nursing is complex and related to the diverse needs and concerns of patients this analysis is broadly based. Thus, the contributions range from the technological aspects of care, to its moral, spiritual and ethical dimensions. Other contributions focus on family care and potential for expansion of the nurse's role in this important area. Chapters draw upon several different knowledge sources, both from within the domain of nursing science, where the application to cancer and palliative care is overt, to a broad range of other sources, philosophical, psychological and sociological. Advances in cancer and palliative care nursing are thus analysed from an informed and critical perspective.

The central theme of *Advancing Nursing Practice in Cancer and Palliative Care* relates to the highly contentious and deeply confused professional debate on the nature of 'advanced nursing practice' or 'higher level practice' within a specific context. Readers will quickly notice that the terms 'advanced', 'advancing', 'higher level', and 'expert' are used often and sometimes they are used interchangeably. Likewise the terms 'nurse-led' services and 'cancer nursing practitioner' and 'nurse consultant' are used as they describe particular advances in cancer nursing practices. We make no apologies for using this variety of terms throughout the book; we would welcome clarity of definition in these areas but do not see this as the purpose of this book. While we have sympathy with the view that the language used to describe nursing work is confusing, these terms are used in the everyday language of practising nurses and are also expressed as part of nursing policy. Moreover, these terms reflect the many ways in which professional boundaries are currently being re-negotiated in changing service provision.

While the book sets out a vision for advancing cancer and palliative care nursing practice, it also offers some direction on how to achieve that vision. Thus the final parts of the book are devoted to consideration of issues of leadership, management and policy. These elements are not only necessary but essential in order to make 'advanced' or 'advancing nursing practice' a reality.

We hope that you find this book useful, stimulating and challenging. We are deeply grateful to the many contributors who rose to the challenge in helping to articulate the ways in which 'advanced cancer and palliative care nursing' can contribute to patient care.

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