

## **Internationally Recognized Program Meets the Highest Standards of Nursing Skills Competency Training Worldwide through ANCC Accreditation**

### **American University of Beirut Medical Center, Beirut, Lebanon**

The Administration of Chemotherapy and Biotherapy Nursing Skills Competency Program at American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC) trains nurses to provide standardized, safe, up-to-date, high-quality chemotherapy and biotherapy to patients in the hospital's oncology units. Registered nurses, clinical educators, and nurse managers learn all aspects of safe chemotherapy preparation and administration, as well as patient and family education to prevent or reduce side effects. The program was recently reaccredited by the ANCC through its Nursing Skills Competency Program.

*Nariman Iskandarani Tibi, MSN, Nurse Training and Development manager, discusses the challenges and rewards of the AUBMC accreditation journey:*

AUBMC is a recognized and valued referral medical center in the Middle East. We are a Magnet<sup>®</sup> hospital, accredited by Joint Commission International, and an ANCC-accredited continuing education provider. To maintain the high standards these prestigious organizations require, we sought ANCC accreditation of our Administration of Chemotherapy and Biotherapy Nursing Skills Competency Program.

ANCC accreditation aligns with our mission and vision, and reinforces the quality of the education we provide. We constantly update nursing knowledge and skills to stay current with the latest innovations in care, improve clinical effectiveness, and promote positive patient outcomes. This knowledge is disseminated nationally and internationally through courses such as our chemotherapy program.

Obtaining accreditation was a challenge, especially with concurrent accreditation activities taking place throughout the medical center. But our biggest challenge turned out to be our greatest reward: The interprofessional effort brought us together, built team spirit among the different disciplines, and demonstrated how fruitful collaboration can be.

All AUBMC oncology nurses are required to complete and pass this course. As a result, they are more competent in the safe handling and administration of chemotherapy and biotherapy, and better able to educate patients and families. Several nurses even used contact hours from the program to apply for international specialty certification.

Outcomes improved as well. Adverse drug events and chemotherapy spills are down, and patient satisfaction is up. Oncology patients are happier with their nursing care and better informed about their diseases and treatment trajectories.

Our advice to others considering accreditation for nursing skills competency courses is to use a variety of resources and teaching strategies to ensure robust course content, and to track participant feedback and outcomes to revise content as necessary.

ANCC Accreditation is well worth the effort invested. At AUBMC, we feel a great sense of satisfaction and pride in having developed an internationally recognized program that meets the highest standards of nursing education worldwide. It motivates us to seek continuous achievements to enhance quality nursing care thanks to tools provided by ANCC.

### **Accreditation Program**

The ANCC Accreditation program recognizes the importance of high-quality continuing nursing education (CNE) and skills-based competency programs. Around the world, ANCC-accredited organizations provide nurses with the knowledge and skills to help improve care and patient outcomes. For more information, visit [nursecredentialing.org/accreditation](http://nursecredentialing.org/accreditation).