

SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE IN ONCOLOGY

Social work is a regulated health profession in Newfoundland and Labrador. There are over 1700 social workers registered to practice social work throughout the province. Social workers adhere to a Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice in providing essential, competent, and high-quality services.

Registered Social Workers are employed in Psychosocial Oncology, which is a specialty in cancer care. Oncology Social Workers work with individuals, their families, and caregivers to enhance their health and social well-being by:

- Supporting individuals and families through all stages of the cancer experience from prevention, diagnosis, treatment, survivorship, palliation, and bereavement.
- Assessing for cancer related distress from a biopsychosocial and spiritual perspective.
- Developing treatment interventions to address the social, practical, psychological, physical, emotional, spiritual, and quality-of-life impacts of cancer on patients and their families.
- Providing individual, couple, family, and group supportive counselling and therapy to address issues related to a cancer diagnosis.
- Providing education to individuals and families about the impact of cancer.
- Promoting self-advocacy and supporting individuals as they navigate the health care system.
- Advocating for services and access to care that promotes and respects each individuals' values, beliefs and rights while preserving personal dignity.

Further information about the social work profession can be found at www.nlcsw.ca or by contacting:

Newfoundland & Labrador
College of Social Workers

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