

Patient and Family Education in Pediatric Oncology: A Systematic Review from the Children's Oncology Group

¹Cheryl Rodgers, PhD, RN, CPNP, CPON; ²Catherine Laing, PhD, RN; ³Ruth Anne Herring, MSN, RN, CPNP, CPHON; ⁴Nancy Tena, MSN, RN, CNS-BC, CPHON, BMTCN; ⁵Adrienne Leonardelli, MLIS; ¹Marilyn Hockenberry, PhD, RN, PPCNP, FAAN; ⁶Verna Hendricks-Ferguson, PhD, RN, CHPPN, FAAN

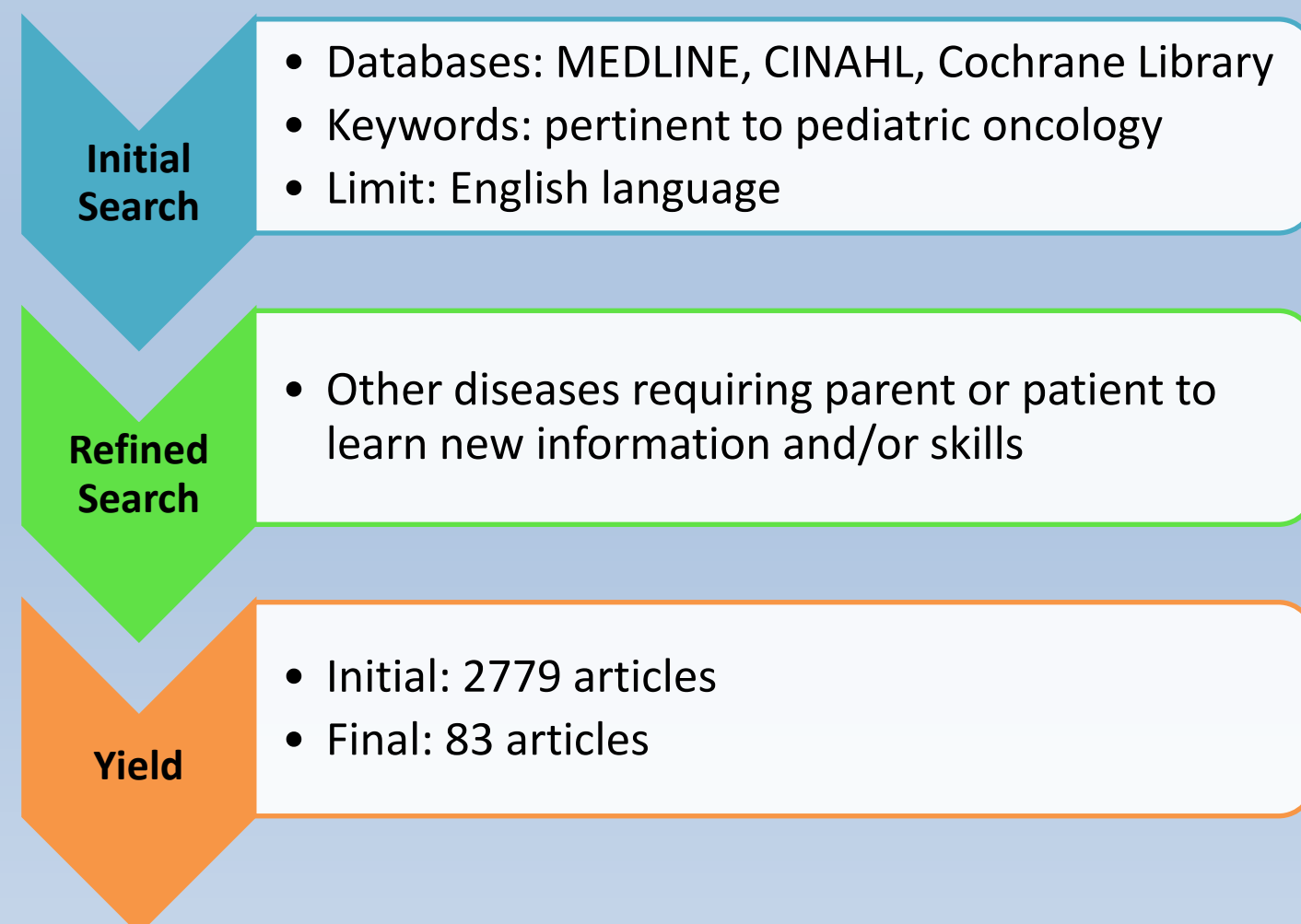
¹Duke University School of Nursing; ²University of Calgary Faculty of Nursing; ³Cook Children's Medical Center; ⁴C.S. Mott Children's Hospital; ⁵University of Virginia School of Nursing; ⁶St. Louis University School of Nursing

Introduction

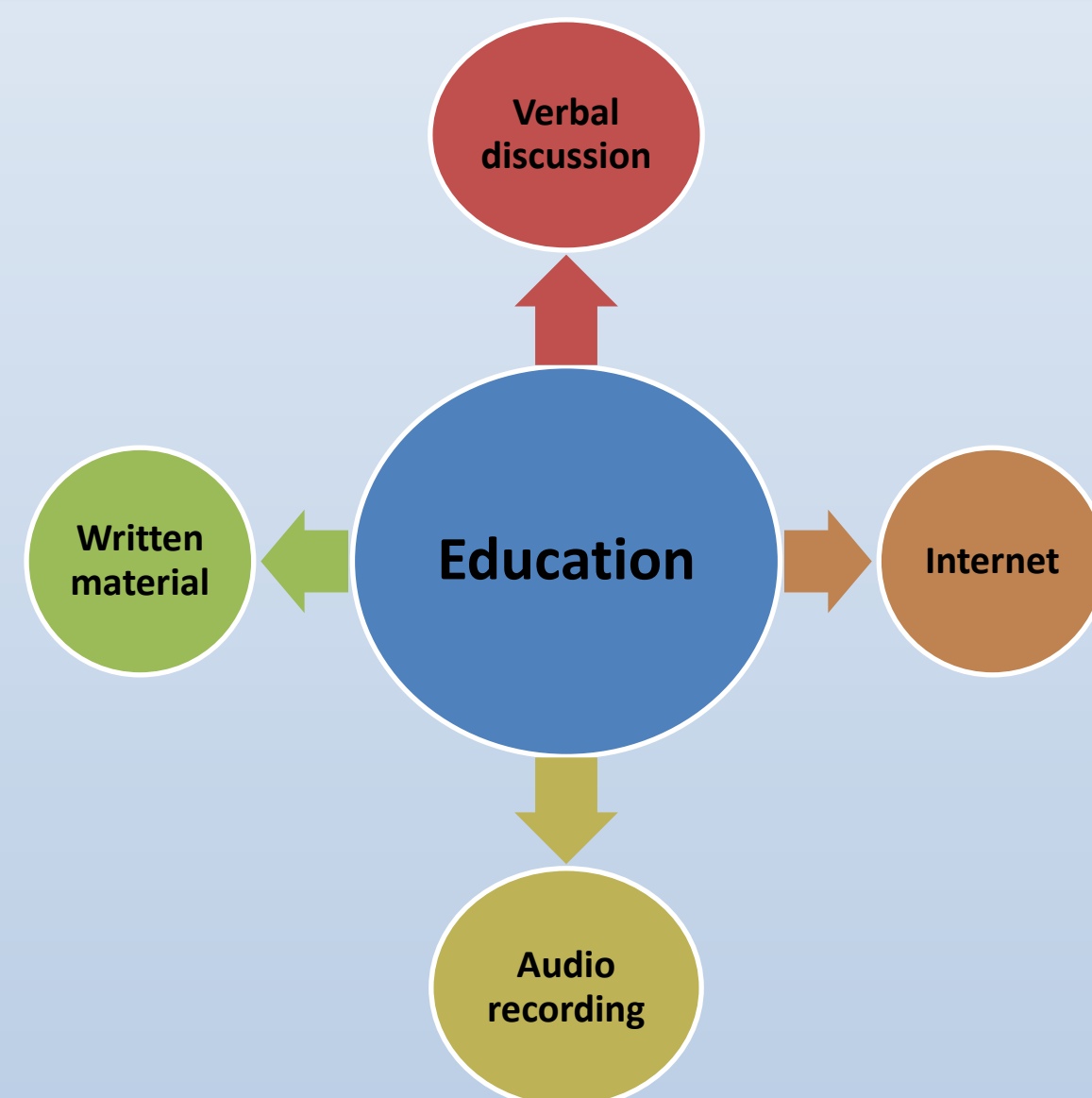
- Cancer is extremely stressful for the pediatric patient and family
- Essential education must be delivered
- Nurses are responsible to educate
- Best educational methods have not been identified

PROJECT AIM: To determine current knowledge of effective education for newly diagnosed pediatric oncology patients and their family

Literature Search



Delivery



Timing

No specific time preference for education

Parents expect cancer information during the initial oncologist meeting but are overwhelmed and need time to process the diagnosis before teaching can begin

Content

PATIENT: CANCER TOPICS

Knowing what will happen
Procedures
Prognosis
Etiology
Treatment plan and Side effects
Everything (even the "hard stuff")
Adolescents /Young Adults: sexuality and fertility

PATIENT: PSYCHOSOCIAL TOPICS

Interacting and communicating with friends
Getting back to school or making job/career plans
Learning how to adjust
Relationships and impact with family

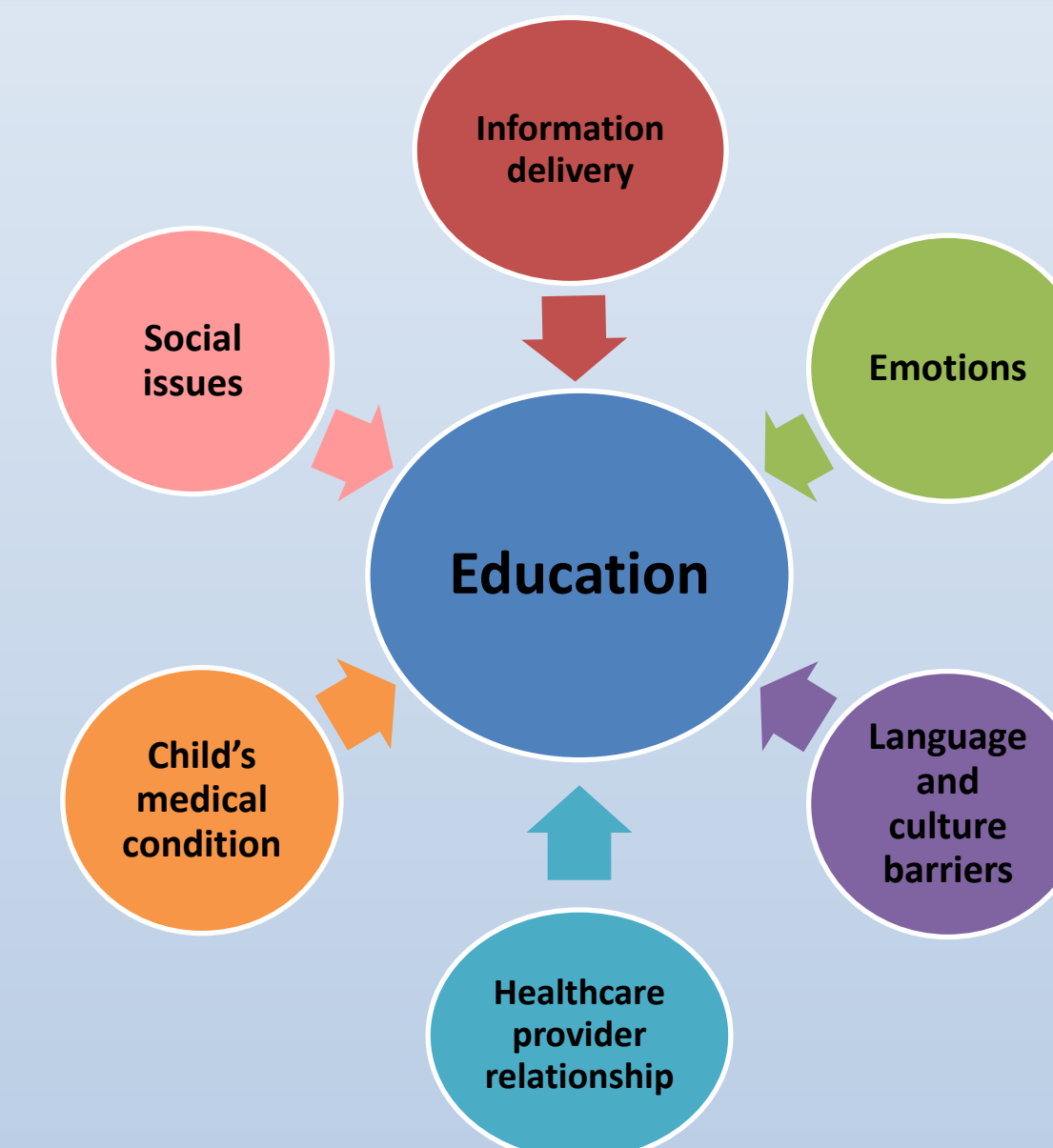
PARENT: CANCER TOPICS

Diagnosis and understanding the disease
Prognosis
Further testing and coping with painful procedures
Treatment plan and Side effects
Recognizing problems
Medical dictionary
Where to get answers for questions

PARENT: PSYCHOSOCIAL TOPICS

Emotional impact on the child
Day-to-day management
Making informed decisions
Basic self-care
Impact of diagnosis on the family

Influences



Tested Interventions

Web based programs

- Educational information
- Online support

Teaching tools

- Home visits or follow up phone calls
- Refrigerator magnet
- Wallet-size card

Recommendations

1. Use written materials, short verbal discussion, and audio recordings
2. Give parents time to process the diagnosis before teaching
3. Include cancer specific content
4. Include psychosocial content
5. Provide anticipatory education
6. Consider patient's education and developmental level
7. Give consistent information by consistent healthcare providers, use understandable vocabulary, and provide time for questions
8. Consider parent's emotional state, language barriers, cultural issues, and social issues
9. Use structured teaching tools for education and discharge instructions
10. Use age-appropriate, interactive material when educating siblings