

The History of Oncology Social Work

1700s

In the United States, the first hospital, Philadelphia Hospital, was built in Philadelphia in 1751 followed by New York Hospital in New York in 1769.



1800s

Increases in European immigration to the United States resulted in increased cases of tuberculosis and other diseases. More hospitals were built.



1900s

Social workers were integrated into medical care throughout the 1900s as people noticed the need to address social aspects of medical treatment.



1980s

Oncology social work was acknowledged as a specialty field. In 1983, *The Journal of Psychosocial Oncology* received its copyright. In 1984, the National Association of Oncology Social Workers, later the Association of Oncology Social Workers (AOSW), met for the first time.



2003

The Board of Oncology Social Work Certification was established. BOSWC reviews and approves Oncology Social Worker Certifications.



Today

Oncology social workers are an integral part of community agencies and cancer treatment centers, providing the bulk of psychosocial support to patients.

