

Six regional cancer centers acting as national supporting structures for better quality and equality in cancer care



TYPE
STATUS

Program fully implemented and ongoing

LAST
UPDATE

September 2021

SWEDEN • NATIONAL
Cancer care

PROBLEM & OBJECTIVE

PROBLEM A key challenge for cancer care in Sweden is the coordination of the 21 independent regions to contribute to and value the outputs of common decisions and agreements.

OBJECTIVE In close collaboration with patients and professionals the main objective of this program is to strengthen the quality of Swedish cancer care, increase access to care and reduce inequalities due to regional, gender or socio-economic factors

KEY COMPONENTS / STEPS

- 2010 – the first annual agreement built on the national cancer strategy between the government and the 21 regions was accepted.
- 2011-2012 – regional cancer centres (RCCs) were founded and provide supporting structure.
- 2012 – development of national guidelines for cancer care initiated.
- 2015 – development of standardized care pathways was initiated.
- A similar structure for involvement of patients and their families was started in an early phase of the work.
- Support for the development and improvement of national cancer quality registries is an essential part of the work by RCCs.

KEY CONTEXTUAL FACTORS

- The work is ongoing built on annual agreements with the Swedish government.
- 21 independent regions in Sweden have overall responsibility and budget for the implementation of cancer care.
- 6 regional cancer centres (RCC) have been established to support the regions in improving the quality of cancer care
- A national node “regional cancer centres in collaboration” keep the 6 RCCs together to form a national cancer strategy.
- The main target groups are health care professionals, health care executives and patients and their families.

MAIN IMPACTS / ADDED VALUE

- Approximately 50 national cancer care guidelines have been produced
- 31 standardized cancer care pathways have been developed
- Approximately 500 chemotherapy regimens have been combined in one national database
- A national website was established that holds all knowledge support developed
- Increased number of contact nurses in cancer care
- Increased number of patients discussed by multi-disciplinary teams before and after treatment
- These points are only a few examples of the value added to Swedish cancer care as a result of the national cancer strategy and RCCs.

LESSONS LEARNED

- The involvement of cancer care professionals and patients in all the development work done by RCCs is a key success factor.
- The principle of making consensus decisions among six RCCs is another.

CONTACT

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REFERENCES & DOCUMENTATION

www.cancercentrum.se

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