

# Actions to tackle inefficiencies and increase the value of cancer care for patients



TYPE  
STATUS

Recommendations

LAST  
UPDATE

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EUROPE • HEALTH SYSTEMS  
Diagnostic & Treatment

## PROBLEM & OBJECTIVE

**PROBLEM** Improving efficiency of health care systems implies the allocation of limited available resources in such a way that it prioritises interventions providing the greatest benefit to patients and therefore enhancing the overall value (i.e. effectiveness and efficiency) of cancer care. That is a challenge requiring major changes not only at the policy level, but also at the level of individual health care providers.

**OBJECTIVE** To provide policy makers and managers dealing with cancer care with a portfolio of actions (i.e., interventions worth implementing in the light of demonstrated effectiveness) they may want to consider to improve the provision of care for cancer patients, and outlining "real life" examples of initiatives undertaken by cancer centers in the EU to make their organizations more efficient. Consistently with the nature of the target audience, we mostly focused on interventions concerning the organisation and delivery of care, rather than the diagnostic or therapeutic procedures/interventions to be used at the clinical level.

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## KEY COMPONENTS / STEPS

- The actions proposed were drawn from the available scientific evidence on the worth of different interventions, as synthesized in 35 published systematic reviews.
- Cancer centres initiatives were identified through a survey among OECD affiliated cancer centres and through iPAAC Joint Action representatives of individual countries.
- Among the 93 OECD centres, 15 (16,1 %) replied with 25 initiatives (67,6 % of the projects). Other 12 projects were also collected from the iPAAC Joint Action representatives of individual countries.

## KEY CONTEXTUAL FACTORS

- There is a general awareness that there is room for efficiency improvement in the organisation and delivery of cancer care ( Wait S., et al. 2017).

## MAIN IMPACTS / ADDED VALUE

- The report outlines a range of actions or interventions that are likely to enhance the value of cancer care; which implementation should be adapted to the local context.
- Degree of implementation of those interventions could therefore be taken as a measure of health systems' capacity to deliver high value cancer care.

## LESSONS LEARNED

- The evidence which was available for developing guidance on the implementation of "high-value cancer care" was limited in quantity and quality. Therefore, supporting research initiatives aimed at shedding light on how the cancer care could be better organised and delivered should one of the actions to be considered by policy makers and health care managers.

## REFERENCES & DOCUMENTATION

- CanCon Policy paper
- "Towards sustainable cancer care: Reducing inefficiencies, improving outcomes—A policy report from the All.Can initiative." *Journal of Cancer Policy* 13: 47-6

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