



INTERNATIONAL CANCER CONTROL PARTNERSHIP

Policy Brief:

The Foundational Elements of National Cancer Control Plan Development and Implementation

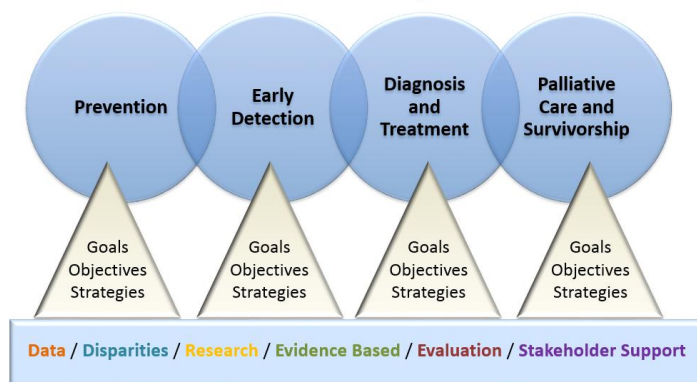
Executive Summary

National cancer control planning is a process a country engages in to create strategic partnerships to effect policy and program changes aimed at lowering a country's cancer risk factors and cancer burden and improving population health. Central to planning is the development and implementation of a national cancer control plan (NCCP). The cultural and collaborative context wherein these plans are formed and implemented is as critical as the plans themselves. The process of creating an NCCP uses a “whole-of-society” approach that takes time because it involves multisectoral partners who have different perspectives and interests, and might not normally collaborate with one another. Government support through legislation for broad-based cancer control that is fully supported by civil society, professionals and the public is essential. Such policies include universal health care, tobacco control policies, and social policy reforms (*Chokshi & Farley, NEJM 2012.*) Resources to assist countries in creating, revising, implementing, or evaluating an NCCP are available through the ICCP web portal at www.iccp-portal.org.

Introduction

An NCCP is a strategic plan to control cancer based on the country's cancer burden, cancer risk factor burden and the available resources for implementation, in the context of the culture and health care system in that country (*Source: Union for International Cancer Control*). The NCCP sets out goals, objectives and strategies for every level of cancer prevention and care, taking appropriate health data into consideration, including social determinants of health and stakeholder support.

NCCP scope



To increase support, maximize resources and prevent duplication of services, countries should build partnerships to sustain coordinated efforts that are cancer-specific and intersectoral with other components of a dynamic health system. An NCCP uses evidence-based information to guide policies and programs and better ensure accountability through cross-cutting communication focused on improved health outcomes—from reduced cancer risk and earlier detection and diagnoses to improved treatment, palliative care and quality of life.

Methods

Best Practices

The International Cancer Control Partnership (ICCP) offers best practices and guides to assist in the creation of NCCPs, including examples of other countries' national cancer plans, a free and accessible library of resources on planning and

capacity building for cancer control, up-to-date evidence collated by expert networks and technical assistance from partners and stakeholders. All of these resources can be accessed via a free, one-stop shop ICCP Portal: www.iccp-portal.org.

Plan Foundation

Creating a plan that will be successfully implemented requires a sturdy foundation: leadership, political will, policy and financing, community support, and effective partnerships. The most successful efforts devote substantial and sustained time and effort to build these foundational elements. One of the most crucial steps is building a coalition to develop support, ensure the incorporation of evidence-based strategies that focus on priority issues and gaps, leverage skills and expertise, and monitor and track progress.

Essential Elements

An NCCP outlines vision, mission, goals, objectives and strategies, while taking into account country context and social determinants of health. An NCCP should set up clear targets and indicators for monitoring and evaluation of plan outcomes. In addition, a plan should outline a plan for financing, developing additional sources of revenue, and leveraging existing resources.

Partnerships

Strategic partnerships are critical to cancer control as they allow for combining resources, maximizing support, promoting coordination, increasing comprehensiveness, driving innovation, enhancing sustainability, reducing disparities and improving health outcomes. Cancer control partnerships are ongoing and should commit to doing things together that would not otherwise happen. Influencers and experts should comprise a core group that recruits other individuals and organizations to play specific roles. While dependent upon the country context, cancer control partnerships are encouraged to link with other health plans on similar goals whenever possible.

Where to Get Started

The national cancer control plan development and [implementation assessment tool](#) by a group of 3-7 key stakeholders, with diverse perspectives and expertise, to identify the critical elements of each stage of the NCCP. This is an opportunity for countries to assess their own efforts and to develop an action plan to address critical planning and implementation elements discussed above.

Conclusion

Evidence-based national cancer plans and strategic partnerships are critical and powerful elements to a country's cancer control efforts. A group of diverse and committed organizations who agree to work together to develop and implement a national cancer plan can provide input and ideas on cancer problems, possible solutions and bring expertise to the partnership and leverage their existing programs and networks. The ICCP is an available partner organization and the ICCP portal www.iccp-portal.org offers resources and avenues for technical assistance throughout the lifecycle of cancer control planning.

Recommendations

Countries interested in creating an NCCP are encouraged to use the myriad of planning resources available from the International Cancer Control Partnership (ICCP) and the ICCP portal www.iccp-portal.org for cancer control planning.

References

Other referenced material from the aforementioned webinar include:

Union for International Cancer Control [toolkit for planners](#)

Chokshi & Farley. *New Engl. J Med* 2012.367: 295-7