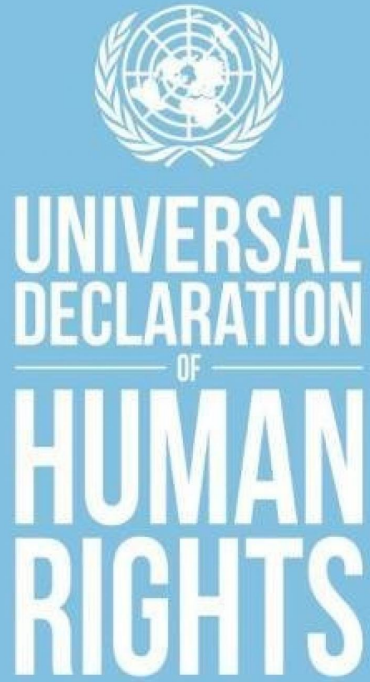


The European Code of Cancer Practice





Article 25:
“Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and **medical care and necessary social services...**”



European Cancer Organisation's Inequalities Network (1)

The Inequalities Network drives consensus, presents policy recommendations and solutions, and shares best practices in relation to the challenges of inequalities across Europe due to:

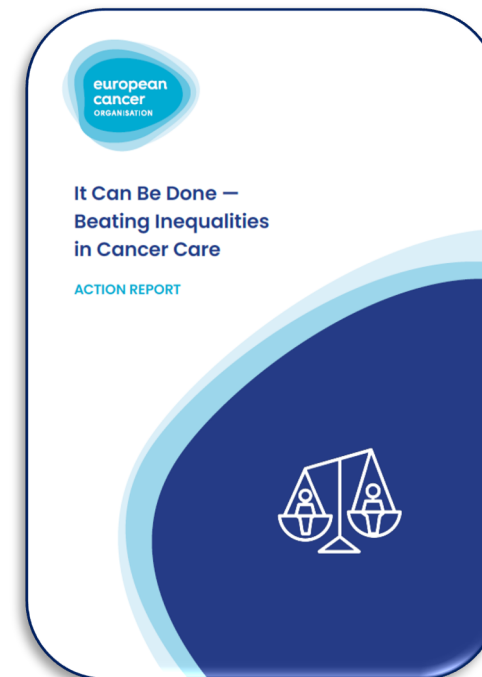
- **Significant disparities** in the quality of care and patient outcomes across Europe, especially with regard to the East-West divide
- **Variation** in the implementation of known **best practice**
- Delays in the **uptake of innovation**
- Differing levels of **health literacy/patient education**
- Other factors such as **gender inequalities, ethnicity, age, sexuality and identity; challenges of marginalized groups**

Inequalities Network



European Cancer Organisation's Inequalities Network (2)

- Enshrining the **10 key rights of cancer patients** set out in the European Code of Cancer Practice as a **core tool and paradigm** for delivering equitable cancer care
- Ensuring **wide access to reliable data** to better identify national cancer control priorities and the accompanying development of cancer policies that truly reflect the local context
- From this, fully implementing **data-driven national cancer control plans** (NCCP) in all countries
- **Treating each cancer patient as an individual.** Cancer care must take individual account of the patient's health status, associated comorbidities and socioeconomic situation
- Deploying standardised treatment pathways to ensure **all cancer patients receive quality care** along the patient pathway



The Cancer Inequalities Registry



7. REDUCING CANCER INEQUALITIES ACROSS THE EU

These inequalities are unacceptable in a European Health Union that seeks to protect everyone. There should be no first- and second-class cancer patients in the EU. Europe's Beating Cancer Plan aims to address these inequalities across the entire disease pathway. It will tackle these issues also in conjunction with the actions under the Pharmaceutical Strategy for Europe and the forthcoming EU Disability Rights Strategy.

Flagship 9: In 2021, the Commission will establish a **Cancer Inequalities Registry**. It will identify trends, disparities and inequalities between Member States and regions. Alongside regular qualitative assessments of the country-specific situation, the Registry will identify challenges and specific areas of action to guide investment and interventions at EU, national and regional level under Europe's Beating Cancer Plan.

<https://cancer-inequalities.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>

European Code of Cancer Practice

YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO:



1. EQUAL ACCESS



2. INFORMATION



3. QUALITY,
EXPERTISE &
OUTCOMES



4. SPECIALISED
MULTIDISCIPLINARY
CARE



5. SHARED
DECISION-MAKING



6. RESEARCH &
INNOVATION



7. QUALITY OF LIFE



8. INTEGRATED
SUPPORTIVE &
PALLIATIVE CARE



9. SURVIVORSHIP &
REHABILITATION



10. REINTEGRATION



#cancerpatientrights #codeofcancerpractice

europeancancer.org/code



The European Code of Cancer Practice

- an **empowerment tool for patients** to be active participants in their care (rather than passive recipients) and achieve the best possible health and quality of life outcomes for adults and children living with cancer – no matter where they live
- Available in **over 20 languages**
- **Plain language content** which is evidence-based
- **Endorsed** by many European and national organisations, as well as individual cancer centres.
- To **reduce inequalities** between socio-economic groups, in underserved populations and minority communities
- **To link** clinical guidelines with healthcare services and patient experience
- Can be used to **support healthcare professionals and policymakers** to deliver state of the art care
- In some settings, can be used as an **aspirational ideal** against which goals for quality standards, policies and practices are monitored and delivered.

What does a Right within the Code look like?

1. Equal Access

You have a right to:

Equal access to affordable and optimal cancer care, including the right to a second opinion.

Three key questions that every cancer patient may choose to ask:

1) *Will my care be the best available and comparable to other high quality cancer care and good clinical cancer practice in my country and elsewhere in Europe?*

2) *Are patient outcomes in our cancer care service as good in general as in other centres in my country and elsewhere in Europe?*

3) *Do I have the right to ask for a second opinion if I so wish?*

Explanation in Plain Language – about 500 words

The Medical Literature and Evidence paper for each Right



1. EQUAL ACCESS

Equal access to affordable and optimal cancer care, including the right to a second opinion.



There is also a connection between the report of the **European Parliament’s Special Committee on Beating Cancer (BECA)** and the European Code of Cancer Practice. The BECA report states that the Code, provides “an empowering tool to ensure that the best available care is provided to European citizens and patients.”



COVID-19 has made the European Code of Cancer Practice even more relevant in terms of cancer patients' rights and outcomes.

COVID-19 has created:

- ✓ an economic crisis
- ✓ a social crisis
- ✓ a health crisis

COVID-19 has:

- ✓ amplified inequalities
- ✓ created a human rights crisis



Armed conflict...



...and cancer

“Armed conflicts may increase cancer incidence, complications and mortality in the short term by disrupting patients seeking care and the delivery of all aspects of oncological care [9, 10]. Additional impacts on cancer services may result from sudden demographic shifts associated with armed conflict and forced migration (internally displaced persons or refugees). This may increase late diagnoses for potentially curable site-specific cancers, abandonment of treatment or sub-optimal treatment, all of which increase the burden of cancer on patients and health services.”

The impact of armed conflict on cancer among civilian populations in low- and middle-income countries: a systematic review, Mohammed Jawad et al, Ecancermedicalsecience, 2020 (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7289611/> accessed on 12 March 2022)



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KNOWLEDGE CONQUERS CANCER



**Signposting to Resources for Ukrainian patients
and those helping them in different languages:**

www.europeancancer.org/help

Constant update and visual improvement

Simple URL

New links and resources can be added

Send them to ukraine@europeancancer.org

Help Ukraine – Інформація для пацієнтів

- ECO-ASCO Special Network on the Impact of the War in Ukraine on Cancer
- ECO Updates on Ukraine
- ASCO Information for Patients with Cancer & Physicians in Ukraine & the Neighboring Countries

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Narodowego Centrum Onkologii im Marii Skłodowskiej-Curie: +48 22 546 20 00
The Maria Skłodowska-Curie National Research Institute of Oncology
- Національна федерація раку: Інформація для осіб, які прибули до Польщі з України, рятуючись від збройного конфлікту
Ogólnopolska Federacja Onkologiczna: Pomoc Ukrainie
Polish National Cancer Federation

Thank you for your attention



On Equality
in Beating
Cancer

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The International
Brain Tumour Alliance