



IAHPC Statement RC73 WPR Agenda Item 10 Cervical Cancer

RC73/6 Strategic Framework for the Comprehensive Prevention and Control of Cervical Cancer in the Western Pacific Region 2023–2030

The International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care (IAHPC) is a global membership organization whose vision is a world free from serious health-related suffering. Our mission is to serve as a global platform to inspire, inform and empower individuals, governments and organizations to increase access and optimize the practice of palliative care¹.

The IAHPC welcomes the inclusion of palliative care into the Strategic Framework, and particularly the acknowledgement that “due to the inaccessibility of appropriate medication for pain relief and the absence of palliative care services in many settings, many women experience unacceptable suffering and a terrible death.” While we commend the Framework’s emphasis on prevention and control, we recognize that when prevention and control are absent or have failed, women with advanced cervical cancer need basic palliative care to prevent and alleviate severe and multifaceted suffering.

We recommend that to improve availability of palliative care services and accessibility of appropriate palliative care medicines, WPR member states and their national regulatory agencies

- Adopt the *essential package of palliative care for cervical cancer (EPPCCC)*² into all levels of their health systems. The EPPCCC consists of a set of interventions, medicines, simple equipment, and social supports that can be applied by any clinicians with basic palliative care training. It is designed to be safe, effective for preventing and relieving all types of suffering of inpatients and outpatients with cervical cancer, useful at all levels of health care systems, and affordable even in the poorest settings. By assuring accessibility of the EPPCCC for all patients with cervical cancer at all levels of health care systems, governments can improve patient outcomes, provide financial risk protection for patients and families, and reduce costs to the health care system.
- Avail themselves of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) *Learning Project*³ launched in 2016 to assist Member States to improve availability of internationally controlled essential medicines INCB Learning addresses the barriers to adequate availability of indispensable narcotic and psychotropic substances required for medical treatments, particularly by raising awareness and providing training.
- Introduce palliative care into the *undergraduate curricula* of medical, nursing, pharmacy, and social work schools to ensure that all professionals have basic training to alleviate the pain and distressing symptoms associated with cervical cancer.

¹ <https://hospicecare.com/home/>

² <https://ascopubs.org/doi/pdfdirect/10.1200/GO.21.00026>

³ <https://www.incb.org/incb/en/learning.html>



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE
Advancing Hospice & Palliative Care Worldwide

- Partner with *national palliative care associations and regional palliative care alliances* such as the Asia Pacific Hospice and Palliative Care Network⁴ These organizations of professionals who work in the field can serve as expert consultants and key informants to develop accurate estimates of essential palliative care medicines such as those included on the WHO Model List, Part Two.⁵

⁴ <https://aphn.org>

⁵ [WHO Model List](#)