



IAHPC Statement RC73 WPR Agenda Item 12 NCDs

Draft *Regional Action Framework for Noncommunicable Disease Prevention and Control in the Western Pacific*

WPR/RC73/8

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 appreciates the Framework's aspiration "to transition NCD management to a people-centred approach, and "accompany" them through the life course [...] including through support for management of chronic illnesses such as diabetes and hypertension, as well as rehabilitation and palliative care when needed." We also appreciate the focus on gendered caregiving, particularly in context of people with disabilities arising from NCDs, and the recognition that informal care can compound economic losses for households, and we welcome the recommendation that health systems include patients and communities in a more holistic, as opposed to vertical approach, to NCD treatment and control.

Evidence from health systems in countries of all income levels now shows that, by providing support through community health workers and primary care, palliative care can alleviate the preventable pain and suffering associated with NCDs, including financial, social, and spiritual pain. In doing so, palliative care improves the quality of life of individual patients and caregivers, reduces catastrophic out of pocket spending for households, improves community resilience, and strengthens health systems. Integration of palliative care into NCD plans is essential for member states to reach Goal 3, Target 3.8, of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Enabling actions in the WHO package of essential noncommunicable (PEN) disease interventions for primary health care include developing and implement a *palliative care policy*, including access to *opioid analgesics* for pain relief, together with *palliative care training* for health workers.

¹ <https://hospicecare.com/home/>



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Advancing Hospice & Palliative Care Worldwide

The IAHPC recommends that WPR member states

- Consult with regional associations such as the Asia Hospice and Palliative Care Network², and national associations of palliative care professionals, to develop context appropriate palliative care *policies* that include care for persons living with NCDs and to provide *basic palliative care training* for healthcare workers and appropriate estimates for essential palliative care *medicines*.
- Adopt the WHO Essential Package of Palliative Care Interventions, Medicines, Equipment, Human Resources, and Intersectoral Supports³ designed to be lowest cost by including only off-patent formulations, affordable essential equipment, and an operational model based on competencies rather than professions, scaled to country income level.
- Utilize the Learning Project⁴ of the International Narcotics Control Board, 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.

² <https://aphn.org>

³ <https://dcp->

[3.org/sites/default/files/chapters/Annex%2012A.%20Essential%20Package%20of%20Palliative%20Care.pdf](https://dcp-3.org/sites/default/files/chapters/Annex%2012A.%20Essential%20Package%20of%20Palliative%20Care.pdf)

⁴ <https://www.incb.org/incb/en/learning.html>