



4 February 2022

All.Can marks the World Cancer Day today as a proud member of the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) and in solidarity with the global cancer community.

As this first year of the “Close the care gap” campaign is dedicated to “realising the problem”, with this Statement we call attention to how inefficiencies in cancer care cause and exacerbate inequities. We also call on decision-makers to make building efficiency in cancer care a top priority to enable everyone affected by cancer to have equitable access to high-quality care.

Disparities abound when it comes to cancer health and outcomes around the world, due to numerous economic, social and environmental factors. The differences observed between countries are also found within countries, hitting the most vulnerable the hardest. As the global burden of cancer continues to surge, efforts should focus on identifying interventions and cancer control measures that help to reduce and eliminate inequities¹.

Inefficiencies in cancer care can worsen inequities, in addition to causing premature mortality, impairing quality of life, and incurring financial and time losses for patients, while deepening inequities between different groups in society. Inefficiencies also weaken health systems by wasting resources that could otherwise be invested in continuous improvement towards more resilient, adaptive and innovative healthcare systems. The World Health Organization (WHO)² and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)³ recognise that more than 20% of healthcare resources are wasted on ineffective or inefficient practices, and there is room for improvement in all countries to enhance health outcomes and reduce inequities by increasing the efficiency of health systems.

According to the All.Can international patient survey⁴ (involving nearly 4,000 respondents from more than 10 countries) cancer patients commonly experience inefficiencies in their care and see room for improvement in four crucial areas:

1. Swift, accurate and appropriately delivered diagnosis
2. Information, support and shared decision-making
3. Integrated multidisciplinary care
4. The financial impact of cancer

Tackling inefficiencies is more urgent than ever in today’s post-pandemic context, when COVID-19 has exposed pre-existing weaknesses in health systems, including inequities and disparities in health determinants, health service access and health outcomes – both between and within countries.^{5,6} Many of these issues could be mitigated by efficiency gains that could help improve outcomes and care standards, while

¹ International Agency for Research on Cancer. Reducing social inequalities in cancer: evidence and priorities for research. 2019. Available at <https://publications.iarc.fr/580>.

² World Health Organization. The world health report: health systems financing: the path to universal coverage. 2010. Available at <https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/44371>.

³ Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Tackling wasteful spending on health. 2017. Available at <https://www.oecd.org/health/tackling-wasteful-spending-on-health-9789264266414-en.htm>.

⁴ All.Can International. Patient insights on cancer care: opportunities for improving efficiency, Findings from the international All.Can patient survey, All.Can International, 2019.

⁵ IQVIA. EFPIA Patients wait indicator survey. 2020. Available at <https://www.efpia.eu/media/554526/patients-wait-indicator-2019.pdf>.

⁶ World Health Organization. WHO Report on Cancer 2020: Setting priorities, investing wisely and providing care for all, 2020. Available at <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/who-report-on-cancer-setting-priorities-investing-wisely-and-providing-care-for-all>.



reducing wastage and freeing up resources that could be reinvested into efficient and equitable practices or technologies. Therefore, building greater resilience, equity and efficiency are not contradictory aims, but rather interlinked priorities for cancer care systems worldwide.

Closing the care gap goes hand-in-hand with building efficiency in cancer care. Accordingly, our new policy report⁷ offers a common, broadly applicable blueprint, “the All.Can Building Efficiency framework” to support collaborative policy action to improve efficiency in cancer care while optimising people-centricity and equity. We stress that efficiency is best realised by ensuring all patients are treated within a holistic, people-centred and equitable cancer care continuum. Efficiency efforts should focus particularly on strengthening cancer prevention, ensuring early and accurate diagnosis and providing prompt and well-coordinated multidisciplinary specialist treatment, supportive care and palliative care. Policy actions should span four interrelated dimensions that jointly underpin an efficient cancer care continuum, namely: partnering with people, supporting healthcare professionals, implementing a data-driven learning system (as detailed in All.Can’s 2021 policy report ‘Harnessing data for better cancer care’⁸), and investing in efficient technologies.

The All.Can [Efficiency Hub](#) gathers and shares examples of good practices that improve the efficiency of cancer care across the world to help empower all stakeholders with tools to build efficiency in their local settings. The Efficiency Hub is continuously enriched with new examples across the cancer care continuum and for all cancer types. We invite all cancer stakeholders to browse the All.Can Efficiency Hub today, to get inspired and to submit their own examples of practices, projects and initiatives –big or small– that can drive sustainable, efficient cancer care – including measures that address inequities.

Joined together, we all can #CloseTheCareGap.

About All.Can

All.Can International is a global, multi-stakeholder initiative to inform and generate political and public engagement on the need to improve the efficiency of cancer care by focusing on what really matters to patients and the society. All.Can seeks to make sure resources are directed towards achieving better health outcomes while contributing to health systems’ overall sustainability.

Established in 2016, the All.Can initiative brings together a diverse membership base including patient organisations, healthcare professionals, academics and industry.

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⁷ All.Can International. ‘Building efficiency in cancer care’. 2022 (forthcoming).

⁸ All.Can International. Harnessing data for better cancer care. 2021. Available at https://www.all-can.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Harnessing-data-for-better-cancer-care_Report-online.pdf.