
European Code of Cancer Practice Launched



On 23 September, the European Cancer Organisation has launched The European Code of Cancer Practice (The Code), a new initiative outlining the principles of interaction between cancer patients in Europe and their health systems.

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The aim of The Code is to empower and assist cancer patients across Europe to receive the best possible care, treatment and support. It is based on ten key rights every cancer patient has, namely:

- **Equal access** to affordable and optimal cancer care, including the right to a second opinion.
- **Information** about the disease and treatment from a medical team and other reliable sources.
- **Quality, expertise and outcomes.** Information about the quality and safety of care, the level of expertise and the outcomes achieved for a specific type of cancer, at the treatment facility.
- **Specialised multidisciplinary care.** Receiving care from a specialised multidisciplinary team, ideally as part of a cancer care network.
- **Shared decision-making.** Participation in shared decision-making with a healthcare team about treatment and care.
- **Research and innovation.** Information about ongoing relevant research and the possibility to participate in research.
- **Quality-of-life.** Discussing with a healthcare team the priorities and preferences to achieve the best possible quality-of-life.
- **Integrated supportive and palliative care.** Receiving optimal supportive and palliative care.
- **Survivorship and rehabilitation.** Participation in creating a clear, managed and achievable plan for survivorship and rehabilitation.
- **Reintegration** into society and protection from cancer-related stigma and discrimination.

Each of the ten rights is linked to three questions that a patient may choose to ask their healthcare professionals. For example, for the right to shared decision-making these are:

1. May I discuss the approach that we will take in making decisions about my care and agree how my voice is heard?
2. May we share decision-making so I feel empowered to decide on my care options?
3. Does our cancer service encourage patient engagement, involvement and empowerment?

Furthermore, each right is supported by an explanation as well as relevant literature and evidence.

Celebrating the launch, Stella Kyriakides, European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, stressed the importance of patients and healthcare professionals' partnership on The Code to improve cancer care for patients in Europe. "This is an initiative that brings all together at the same table where decisions are made," she said.

In turn, President of the European Cancer Organisation Dr Matti Aapro highlighted "a complete yet simple manner," in which The Code informs and supports cancer patients. "This powerful new tool sets out the core requirements for excellence in clinical cancer practice to improve outcomes for all cancer patients in Europe," he concluded.

More information on the European Code of Cancer Practice can be found [here](#).

About the European Cancer Organisation

The European Cancer Organisation aims to reduce the burden of cancer, improve outcomes and the quality of care for cancer patients, through multidisciplinary and multiprofessionalism. As the not-for-profit federation of member organisations working in cancer at a European level, the

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European Cancer Organisation convenes oncology professionals and patients to agree policy, advocate for positive change and speak up for the European cancer community.

Source: [European Cancer Organisation](#)

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