

Coalition to Fight Cancer in Community

The Coalition to Fight Cancer in Community policy uses the mechanisms that encourage participation from all sectors to drive Thai society to have knowledge and understanding about cancer. It is implemented through model area development, management system development, and campaigns and dissemination of accurate information that will lead to modification of risky behaviors, appropriate and up-to-standard prevention and treatment, and tangible and sustainable management system.

The 12th National Health Assembly,

Having considered a report on Coalition to Fight Cancer in Community¹

Appreciating that the government has given importance to cancer, a significant health problem of the country, and has supported the development of the National Cancer Control Plan,

Appreciating that academic networks, i.e. the Faculty of Medicine, Chulalongkorn University, the Faculty of Medicine, Ramathibody Hospital, the Faculty of Medicine, Siriraj Hospital, the Faculty of Medicine and Public Health, HRH Princess Chulabhorn College of Medical Science, and the National Cancer Institute, have made joint efforts to make cancer problems a public policy,

Acknowledging that all agencies involved are working together to solve these problems, but the effort has been limited to within the public sector,

Concerned that the threat of cancer will continue to increase if people fail to acknowledge information, do not realize the importance of avoidance of risk factors, especially behaviors that pose cancer risks, and pay no attention to carcinogens in the environment;

Concerned that patients, their relatives and people in general have limited accessibility to accurate news and information on cancer, including information on care and treatment of the diseases, especially in view of the fact that at present several types of cancer can be cured permanently, especially early-stage cancer, and that having received possibly inaccurate information from social media could cost them the opportunities to receive efficient and up-to-standard treatment,

Realizing that information to be disseminated to the public must be screened for accuracy through appropriate channels and must be of benefit to the public and that there must be concerted effort among agencies from the public sector, the academia, and the people's networks,

Deeming that for the work to be successfully accomplished, local efforts must be integrated, with emphasis on disease prevention and control and that there must be activities to raise awareness so that people will modify their behaviors to avoid having cancer, reduce risk factors in the environment, and receive screening in accordance with the National Cancer Control Plan,

Hereby passes the following resolutions:

1. Requesting the Ministry of Public Health, through Department of Medical Services, Department of Disease Control and Provincial Health Offices, together with the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, and other ministries concerned, and District Health Boards (DSBs) to urge local government organizations and local government agencies, in conjunction with cancer patients' networks, religious organizations, and civil society networks, to recognize the importance of cancer

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problems and support the efforts to solve them, by using the budget of the Local or area-based Health Security Fund, other funds, and the budget or resources of agencies concerned in order to:

1.1 Encourage various target groups of the population in the community and people with family records of cancer to become more aware of and able to get access to screening programs for cervical cancer, colorectal cancer, breast cancer and other cancers that are of national and local concern on a comprehensive and continuous basis, according to their entitlement to this service under the health insurance system, with modern equipment so as to detect cancer in its early stage, when it can be permanently cured, thus lessening the burden of medical treatment and other costs on the patients, their families and the country,

1.2 Develop and promote community leaders, health volunteers' networks, other volunteer networks, cancer patients' networks, civil society networks, public sector, young people, general public, religious organizations, education sector and other organizations concerned to work together to raise community awareness on prevention and screening for early-stage patients with a view to proper treatment, and the goal is for patients and their families to exercise their rights regarding their choices of treatment via modern medicine, traditional Thai medicine, alternative medicine, and indigenous medicine in the treatment and care of early-stage and terminal-stage patients, so that they will have better quality of life;

2. Requesting Thai Health Promotion Foundation (ThaiHealth), together with academic networks, Health Service Units in and outside the Ministry of Public Health, public and private media networks, patients' networks, religious organizations, education sector, civil society networks, consumers' networks, academic/professional partner networks, and other related networks to:

2.1 Support and promote public awareness of annual health checkups for cancer screening purposes, including the development of model areas for prevention and solving of cancer problems in every province,

2.2 Create health literacy on cancer, health care and treatment via various options, focusing on leading a life based on local wisdom through health literacy tools that are easy to understand, while instilling the confidence in patients about using services of modern medicine,

2.3 Campaign for cancer prevention and screening through management of environmental and occupational health hazards and reduction of risk factors to prevent cancer at individual, family and community levels starting from school children at an early age,

2.4 Create communication channels on cancer prevention that are easily accessible by the public, e.g. tools or applications for risk self-assessment, including community cancer risk assessment tools;

3. Requesting the National Cancer Institute, provincial cancer hospitals, Department of Medical Services, Department of Disease Control, Department of Health, Ministry of Digital Economy and Society,, media networks, patients' networks, consumers' networks, religious organizations, civil society and other related networks to watch out for incorrect information (fake news) that causes misunderstanding about cancer, risk factors, and cancer prevention and treatment, including managing and correcting information and disseminating to the public information on modern medicine, Thai traditional medicine, alternative medicine, and indigenous medicine;

4. Requesting the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation by way of National Research Council of Thailand, institutes of higher education, the Health System Research Institute (HSRI), and related research agencies to support and promote research on cancer-causing behavioral and environmental risk factors, development of health literacy in the public, development of innovations designed to reduce risk factors that will lead to behavioral modification and cancer prevention, care and treatment, and creation of screening tools for

various types of cancer, including research promotion in modern medicine, Thai traditional medicine, alternative medicine, and indigenous medicine, leading to further expansion in the prevention, care, treatment and rehabilitation of cancer patients and dissemination of the findings to the general public as much as possible;

5. Requesting the Secretary-General of the National Health Commission to report the progress to the 14th National Health Assembly.