

Regional Meeting of St. Jude Global –Central America and Caribbean

San José, Costa Rica, 23-24 July, 2019

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Preface

Pediatric Cancer Initiative in Central America:

As part of a global initiative of the World Health Organization (WHO) on childhood cancer, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) together with St. Jude Children's Research Hospital are collaborating with the Ministries of Health of Central America and the Caribbean (Dominican Republic and Haiti) to strengthen the health system response to pediatric cancer.

Cancer is a leading cause of death for children (ages 0-19) with approximately 400,000 new cases diagnosed each year¹.

Initiative objectives:

- Create a National Pediatric Cancer Plan for each of the countries of Central America, the Dominican Republic and Haiti.
- Improve overall survival rates and quality of care for children with cancer, through increased coverage, access, and quality of health services, including supportive and palliative care, for major cancers of the children.

¹Steliarova-Foucher E, Colombet M, Ries LAG, et al. International incidence of childhood cancer, 2001-10: a population-based registry study. *Lancet Oncol.* 2017;18(6):719-731.

Introduction

Workshop | Guiding and Facilitating the Development of National Pediatric Cancer Plans

A two-day workshop was held in July 2019 in San José, Costa Rica. The workshop was organized with the goal to guide and facilitate the development of national pediatric cancer plans (NPCP).

Workshop objectives:

- Provide the tools and guide the completion of the situational analysis of the health system in each country within the context of the six building blocks of the health system specifically for pediatric cancer
- Provide the tools and guide the development of an action plan to be included as part of the national pediatric cancer plan
- Identify regional priorities to be included in the roadmap for the approach of pediatric cancer in Central America, Haiti and Dominican Republic, and to be presented during the Council of Ministries of Health of Central America and the Dominican Republic (COMISCA) annual meeting

In preparation for the workshop the participants were asked to complete a situational analysis of the health systems in the context each of the building blocks for pediatric cancer. To facilitate the situational analysis a tool was developed and shared with the participants.

Day 1:

Presenters:

Dr. Maria Dolores Peres Rosales (PAHO/WHO Costa Rica)

Dr. Monika Metzger (St. Jude)

Dr. Alejandro Solis (COMISCA)

Dr. Daniel Salas Peraza (Costa Rica Ministry of Health)

Ms. Olivia Brathwaite (PAHO)

During the first day of the workshop participants were organized by country and were given time to review and fill in any gaps of the situational analysis they had prepared in advance. As part of the situational analysis the participants had to describe the current state and the goal for each of the components within the building blocks. As a second activity participants were introduced to the methodology to develop an action plan and were given time to work within their country team to create an action plan to achieve the goal for a component of one of the building blocks identified as a national priority.

Day 2:

Presenters:

Dr. Monika Metzger (St. Jude)

Ms. Nora Girón (HSS/SF)

On the second day the participants were organized in six mixed teams. Each team was assigned to work within a specific health system building block and identify a maximum of 5 regional initiatives. All participants voted and the two top initiatives per health system building block were selected to be presented at the annual COMISCA meeting. The selected initiatives are:

Service Delivery:

- Standardized protocol for the integral management of pediatric cancer (TW, ALL, LB, Hodgkin lymphoma, Retinoblastoma and Glioma)
- Develop a regional strategy for the Early Diagnosis of Childhood Cancer Health Workforce
- Establish a continuing education program for health personnel at all levels
- Develop a regional health staff training program: standardize the university curriculum in professional training for all health programs, include in the postgraduate curriculum the topic pediatric oncology

Health Information Systems

- Regional monitoring and evaluation system, validation of recorded data
- Develop a regional information registry with access to country information

Medicine and Technology

- Update of therapeutic guidelines to standardize patient management and have the list of medications necessary for the treatments applied in the region, based on the fees proposed as priorities by WHO
- Write a regulation defining the mechanisms to facilitate loans, donations and swaps between the parties at the regional level

Finance and Governance

- Establish a pediatric cancer and cancer policy for Central America and Dominican Republic
- Request the Ministers of Health to include the foundations they manage pediatric cancer in the mechanisms of joint purchase of COMISCA

Family and Community

- Generation of educational campaigns for early detection of intersectoral childhood cancer (Ministry of Education, Health, Foundations)
- Agreement between countries for the care of children with cancer, that lives at border points and is closer to the unity of another country.

Annexes

1. Elementos Del Sistema De Salud
2. Estrategia Global para la cura del Cáncer Pediátrico
3. Informe Del Taller Costa Rica 2019
4. Iniciativa Atención Integral Cáncer Pediátrico – parentación
5. Iniciativa Atención Integral Cáncer Pediátrico – reporte
6. Integración Regional en Salud COMISCA SICA
7. Marco para Trabajo Regional en Cáncer
8. Promoviendo la Salud Universal – Cáncer Pediátrico
9. Promoviendo la Salud Universal – Propuesta De Planes Nacionales

