



30 May 2017

Re: ESMO Statement for Committee A, Item 15.6, Cancer prevention and control in the context of an integrated approach (A70_32)

Honorable Chair, Esteemed Delegates,

The European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) welcomes a 2017 WHO Cancer Resolution.

As the leading European organisation for medical oncology, comprising over 15,000 oncology healthcare professionals from more than 130 countries, we are committed to decrease inequalities in cancer care worldwide.

For this reason, ESMO has been working with WHO for many years to improve cancer control through projects aimed at securing access to medicines and medical devices, and to building a stronger oncology workforce.

The Cancer Resolution asks WHO to leverage the work of other organisations, so we take this opportunity to raise awareness about some of ESMO resources that can be useful for the Resolution's implementation.

- The Resolution calls for the development of evidence-based protocols that support clinical decision-making for cancer management and palliative care. ESMO has published over 70 Guidelines that set the standard of care for cancer patients. The ESMO Clinical Practice Guidelines are updated regularly and freely available on the ESMO website.
- The Resolution also calls for timely access to cancer medicines, an issue at the heart of the practice of medical oncology. An ESMO survey on the availability of cancer medicines showed that shortages had implications on patient treatment in both high- and low-income countries.
- To avoid shortages and manage the supply of inexpensive essential cancer medicines in Europe, especially those on the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines, ESMO and the Economist Intelligence Unit published a set of recommendations in May 2017.
- In addition to medicine shortages there is also the rising burden and cost of cancer care. The ESMO-Magnitude of Clinical Benefit Scale provides decision-makers with a tool to help prioritize the uptake of cancer medicines in their country based on the medicine's magnitude of benefit to improve patient outcomes.

ESMO is ready and available to support WHO and its Member States with these and other useful tools.

Thank you.

Sincerely, Fortunato Ciardiello, ESMO President