



Nursing and the World Cancer Declaration

Nurses are the largest health workforce in all nations. While educational standards and role functions differ, there is little doubt that the engagement of nurses in the priority areas of the World Cancer Declaration will increase the gains expected by 2010. This document takes each of the priority areas of the declaration and starts to articulate the ways that nurses, both generalist and specialist, can work towards achievement of these priorities. The aim of this exercise is to stimulate thinking in the nursing community towards involvement in the global efforts to reduce the growing burden of cancer in our communities.

Targets by 2020:

The WCD identifies 11 main target areas and then a set of priority actions aimed to impact on these targets over the next two years. The 11 targets are:

- Sustainable delivery systems will be in place to ensure that effective cancer control programmes are available in all countries
- The measurement of the global cancer burden and the impact of cancer control interventions will have improved significantly
- Global tobacco consumption, obesity and alcohol intake levels will have fallen significantly
- Populations in the areas affected by HPV and HBV will be covered by universal vaccination programmes
- Public attitudes towards cancer will improve and damaging myths and misconceptions about the disease will be dispelled
- Many more cancers will be diagnosed when still localized through the provision of screening and early detection programmes and high levels of public and professional awareness about important cancer warning signs
- Access to accurate cancer diagnosis, appropriate cancer treatments, supportive care, rehabilitation services and palliative care will have improved for all patients worldwide
- Effective pain control measures will be available universally to all cancer patients in pain
- The number of training opportunities available for health professionals in different aspects of cancer control will have improved significantly
- Emigration of health workers with specialist training in cancer control will have reduced dramatically
- There will be major improvements in cancer survival rates in all countries

Priority Actions:

The priority actions are divided into three key areas:

- Health policy
- Cancer prevention and early detection
- Cancer treatment

Health Policy

Action	Potential ISNCC Response
Place cancer on the development agenda. Increase the political priority given to cancer by demonstrating that a country's investment in dealing with its growing cancer problem is an investment in the economic and social well-being of the country. Organisations concerned with cancer control should work with the global donor community, development agencies, the private sector and all civil society to invest in cancer control	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establish a key set of messages about the growing problem of cancer that can be circulated to the ISNCC community with a set of strategies that can be used to communicate these messages.• Partner with ICN and UICC to bring these messages and strategies to every nursing organisation globally.• Partner with cancer nursing organisations globally to ensure information about the cancer problem is embedded in nursing curricula
Mobilize stakeholders to ensure that strategies to control cancer globally are targeted at those who are most in need. Involve all major stakeholder groups in the development, or updating, of national cancer control policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Partner with ICN to identify nursing policy leaders throughout the world who could act to bring key messages to health policy makers.
Implement strategies that have been proven to bridge existing cancer surveillance gaps.	
Increase efforts to involve cancer patients in cancer control planning at a local and national level	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify cancer nurses already engaged in efforts to increase patient involvement and develop a resource kit that can be used to encourage patient involvement.

Cancer Prevention and Early Detection

Action	Potential ISNCC Response
Increase efforts to reduce tobacco consumption by encouraging governments to fully implement and enforce the FCTC	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establish links between the ISNCC Tobacco Taskforce and the UICC working group on tobacco to encourage nursing engagement in this action• Update tobacco control position statement to reflect UICC actions and distribute widely to nursing

	<p>organisations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek a grant to pilot interventions to encourage nurses involvement in tobacco control in developing countries
Raise awareness about the need for culturally sensitive cancer risk reduction campaigns, along with public and professional education about cancer warning signs. Push governments to implement policies that will support risk-reducing strategies at a community level and enable individuals to make more informed consumption choices and adopt healthier behaviour.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner with ICN to update the position statement on nurses role in cancer prevention to ensure in line with WCD • Develop a resource kit for implementing key messages about cancer prevention and early detection into nursing curricula and work with local cancer nursing societies to translate these key messages into local languages.
Encourage governments to implement measures to reduce people's exposure to environmental and occupational carcinogens.	
Undertake action to ensure vaccines and other strategies that are shown to prevent cancer-causing infections are more widely available.	
Advocate for the provision of affordable screening programmes for which there is evidence of efficacy in the population in question. Undertake pilot projects that are designed to evaluate the feasibility and efficacy in populations in which screening technology has not yet been tested.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support UICC to identify nurses who might become involved in pilot projects in local areas.

Cancer Treatment

Action	Potential ISNCC Response
Promote the development and use of cancer treatment guidelines that are relevant to local needs and resources. Ensure that sufficient treatment, rehabilitation and palliative care facilities and well-trained staff are available to meet the physical, social and emotional needs of patients with cancer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster access to educational resources from ISNCC member organisations • Assist with the development or adaptation of educational resources for local environments. • Foster the involvement of ISNCC members in guideline development processes.
Take steps to tackle the many barriers to optimal pain control. Work with governments to address the over-regulation of pain medicines. Cooperate with international organizations,	<p>Work with ICN to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote awareness amongst the nursing community about issues in access to pain control. • Develop a set of key messages for

<p>including the Narcotics Control Board and the WHO, to ensure that global implementation of the UN's international drug control conventions do not unduly interfere with legitimate efforts to advance access to pain medicines for cancer patients in pain.</p>	<p>nurse leaders about access to pain medicines that can be used in advocacy efforts</p>
<p>Work with the pharmaceutical industry to increase access to cancer medicines that are affordable and assured of quality</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote ICNs document on counterfeit medications amongst the cancer nursing community to raise awareness of the need for quality medicines.
<p>Increase the number of health professionals with expertise in all aspects of cancer control by providing specialist training opportunities and fellowships to enable professionals to study in specialist settings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner with UICC to foster uptake of its nursing scholarship program and to increase the availability of training opportunities for nurses in low resource countries to access specialist settings through the developing ISNCC Twinning Program • Work with UICC to increase funding for ISNCC led train the trainer programs in areas of critical need for low resource countries and to expand these activities beyond the International Conference on Cancer Nursing to link with other international and national conferences.
<p>Raise awareness about the impact of health worker emigration on the ability of countries to provide adequate levels of cancer care and work collectively to address global and national health workforce shortages and the resultant deepening of inequity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote ethical recruitment practices through partner organisations.
<p>Increase investment in independent basic and applied cancer research and accelerate the translation of research findings into clinical and public health practice</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster sharing of cancer nursing research tools and knowledge through a resource repository on the ISNCC website.
<p>Encourage cancer research organizations in different countries to collaborate, share data and define complementary research objectives to optimize the use of the limited funds available for cancer research and reduce duplication of effort</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support cancer nurse researchers in low resource countries to develop competitive research proposals and publish their research findings to improve access to evidence for practice in like communities through a mentoring program.