CARIBBEAN CANCER ADVOCACY AGENDA

- PREVENTION -

Programme Development
To strengthen existing NGO programmes through funding and or partnerships with other NGOs and the government, and to establish community-centered programmes, promoting awareness of the lifestyle measures that prevent cancer.

- EARLY DETECTION -

Collaboration among NGOs
To strengthen the capacity of NGOs to provide early detection, screening and support services through the pooling of scarce resources.

Education
To establish public education programmes to increase awareness of early signs and symptoms, and the need for self-examination and cancer screening.

- DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT -

Standards of Care
To encourage regional governments to address the insufficient and erratic supplies of treatment medications e.g. chemotherapeutic agents.

Access to Treatment
To improve the ability of health professionals to diagnose and monitor patients by improving the laboratory and medical imaging infrastructure available in the region and to improve patient referral mechanisms to ensure timely referral.

Regional Reciprocal Arrangements
To encourage Caribbean governments to re-evaluate and or normalize reciprocal agreements regarding inter-island health care that is of an urgent and or essential nature for persons with a diagnosis of cancer.

Resource Allocation and Management
To encourage policy level reflection and strategic planning regarding the level of finance and the human resources needed to achieve comprehensive cancer care including long term management structure in both governmental and NGO sectors.

Accountability
To facilitate the development of an environment of accountability regarding health system errors that contribute to negative patient outcomes.

Education
To promote patient empowerment through education on their disease, treatment plan and available care options.

Information
To encourage the development of a regional atlas of cancer care services as a means of facilitating co-ordination, patient navigation and continuity of care.

Insurance Coverage
To encourage Caribbean insurance companies to provide coverage to individuals that are BRCA positive without discrimination.

- PALLIATIVE CARE -

Access to Pain Medication
To encourage Caribbean countries to ensure adequate and uninterrupted supplies of opiates; including legislative changes to the categories of health professionals who are able to administer this class of drug.

Training and Management
To increase competencies related to the safe and rational prescribing of opiates and strengthen access to patient-centered palliative care led by a multidisciplinary team and including psycho-oncology support services.

Hospice and Rehabilitation
To strengthen access to affordable hospice care facilities and rehabilitation services.

- SURVIVORSHIP -

Advocacy Capacity
To build the capacity of survivors to openly advocate for improvements in cancer care across the cancer continuum.

- MONITORING AND EVALUATION -

Cancer Registry Development
To encourage Caribbean governments to legislate for the establishment of sustainable cancer registries where none exist to facilitate effective cancer control planning.

- CROSS-CUTTING -

NGO Capacity Building
To strengthen existing NGO cancer control and prevention programmes through strengthening governance; improving resource mobilisation; strengthening advocacy capacity; and building of partnerships with other NGOs, the government and the private sector.

Cost of Care
To encourage the government and the private sector including insurance companies to explore mechanisms of reducing costs and increasing affordability throughout the continuum of cancer care (ie. screening, diagnostics, medication, care, palliation and beyond the survivorship timeline).

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