



**World  
Physiotherapy**  
Europe region

**Report - Cross Working Group on  
Cancer 2020 – 2022**

**CANCER Cross Working Group (CA Cross WG)**

**FOR NOTING**

**19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

**Prague, Czech Republic**

**REPORT - CROSS WORKING GROUP ON CANCER 2020 – 2022**

**Europe region**

**CANCER Cross Working Group (CA Cross WG)**

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## 1. CONTEXT

Cancer was one of two themes approved by the last General Meeting (2020) to explore through a cross Working Group approach.

The aim was to enhance the promotion, recognition and impact of the profession in the Europe region through focusing on the theme of Cancer and the role of physiotherapy in Cancer from the perspective of each Working Group.

At the beginning of this term, the Advocacy and EU Matters, Educations Matters and Professional Practice Working Groups explored the Cancer theme from their respective perspectives. Following this initial separate work, it was agreed it would be more productive to bring together the relevant members within each Working Group to meet and work as a thematic Group.

The dates of meetings are listed in Annex 4 Appendix 4.

## 2. OBJECTIVE

The overall objective of the Cancer Cross Working Group (CA Cross WG) was to promote the importance of physiotherapy for cancer prevention and rehabilitation in Europe and to align it with the EU Commission Beating Cancer Plan.

## 3. GENERAL OVERVIEW

At its first meeting the group agreed that the purpose was to advocate for the role of physiotherapy in cancer, according to two main pillars for patient care in the EU Commission's Beating Cancer Plan:

- Prevention
- Quality of life / Patients survivors.

In working on these pillars, the Group decided to develop a paper that would present a common base for physiotherapy in cancer care. This would strengthen the message throughout Europe that physiotherapists have a major role in cancer care. The group decided on the **messages** to be delivered, considering the **target/audience** to which they were directed (MOs, PTs and stakeholders) and building the **statements** based on scientific evidence. The structure of the position paper is the following:

1. Background and overarching
2. Patient's journey and the role of physiotherapy (prevention and quality of life) in five aspects
  - 2.1. Pre-medical treatment
  - 2.2. During medical intervention
  - 2.3. Post treatment rehabilitation
  - 2.4. Long term
  - 2.5. Palliative care
3. Statements

#### 4. ACTIONS

Once the Group had agreed on a plan, the members divided the tasks to develop the different parts of the document and the evidenced based statements.

All the members contributed to the whole document with comments. Once the document was finished, the Group sent it to three external reviewers for feedback. Their comments were incorporated into the final version of the paper.

The group planned additional actions:

- a. To develop a webinar on the paper for member organisations and physiotherapists which will be held on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2022.
- b. To create an infographic about the patient pathway.
- c. To prepare a short version of the document including only the statements.
- d. To look for a scientific journal and prepare the paper for publication to disseminate it to all the professionals who work in Cancer, once the document is approved at the General Meeting.

As part of Europe's Beating Cancer, stakeholders contact groups were created and experts were invited to send applications to provide input to the EU Commission on the implementation of the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan and the Horizon Europe Cancer Mission. As a result, two members of the Cross Working Group were selected:

- Nele Adriaenssens was appointed to the thematic group "Early detection and diagnosis and treatment".
- Grainne Sheill was appointed to the thematic group "Quality of Life".

#### 5. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2022-2024

The Group recommends to the General Meeting:

- (i) To approve the paper on the role of physiotherapy in Cancer Care (Annex 8).
- (ii) The Cancer Cross Working Group would continue for a second term to progress the work.
- (iii) The region would continue to engage in Europe's Beating Cancer Plan and undertake work related to other pillars of the Plan as they relate to physiotherapy.

These recommendations are included in the joint recommendations for 2022-2024 to the General Meeting.

## 6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

As Chair, I would like to acknowledge the work of the members of this Group and to thank them for their commitment during these two years. It has been an honour to be part of this team, where all of the members were really engaged in all the actions and activities developed.

I would also like to thank and acknowledge all the support from the Secretariat staff, especially the commitment, patient and guidance of General Secretary, Aitor Carpio, during this term.

### **Carmen Suarez Serrano**

Chair of the Cross Working Group on Cancer

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