

First Thematic Workshop on Cancer Control in East Africa

Outcomes and Recommendations

Format

- Create report with “situation analysis” of the thematic areas
- Include specific recommendations for consideration by the NCCC
 - Steps that can be taken by the NCCC with minimal resource requirements (reorganization)
 - Steps that may require additional resources
- Identify areas where external organizations may be able to help (INCTR, PACT etc.)

Education – an Essential Foundation

- Medical education system might be carefully examined – incorporation of cancer, but also general, foundational disciplines such as pathology into the standard curriculum – reward system
- Nursing education - more, higher level
- Advanced qualifications – associated with rewards
- Specialist training (higher levels of nurses) etc.
- Continuing education – improve professional circumstances – merit or financial rewards
- Quality control
- Access to information; library, internet, telemedicine

Health Services Structure with Cancer in Mind

- Access to care – integration into primary health services essential
 - Cancer coordinator
- System of quality control
 - Of structural, organizational issues
 - Of numbers of cases seen and decisions made
 - Of issues such as time taken to make diagnosis, of patient to start treatment or palliative care

Workforce Problem

- External assistance with visiting experts for consultation, quality control, education and training
- Regional rather than national
- Reassignment of roles
 - Nurses play larger role in patient care
 - Physicians trained to do simple surgical procedures and read marrows, etc.

Creation of Educational Tools

- Clinical care guidelines
- Supportive care guidelines
- Transfusion medicine guidelines

Communications

- Essential to identifying problems, finding solutions and learning
- Efforts should be made to improving communications:
 - Telephones (institutional, inter- beyond)
 - Meetings (sensitization, advocacy, trouble shooting, educational)
 - Videoconferencing
 - Visits of experts within country outside
- Role of regional/national committees in various disciplines (situational analyses, identifying needs (including education and training), institution of quality assurance processes