

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



National Cancer Control Programme



ANNUAL REPORT

2024



National Cancer Control Programme
Ministry of Health



November 2025

National Cancer Control Programme,

Ministry of Health,

Public Health Complex,

No. 555/5,

Elvitigala Mawatha,

Narahenpita,

Colombo 5.

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<https://www.nccp.health.gov.lk/>

Message from the Deputy Director General Non-Communicable Diseases



I am pleased to present this message for the Annual Report of the National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP) for the year 2024. As the focal point for cancer control within the Ministry of Health, the NCCP has played a key role in coordinating and supporting efforts related to cancer prevention, early detection, diagnosis, treatment, survivor support, and palliative care services across Sri Lanka.

The 2024 Annual Report provides a detailed overview of the NCCP's activities, highlighting the progress made and the challenges overcome during the year. I am pleased to see these efforts align with the objectives set out in the National Strategic Plan for the Prevention and Control of Cancers (2020-2024), with a clear focus on achieving the targets outlined in the plan's Results Framework.

Under the leadership of Dr. Sudath Samaraweera, the Director of the NCCP, and the dedicated contributions of the consultants leading the technical units, the programme has made significant strides. The commitment and hard work of the NCCP team, in spite of numerous challenges, are truly commendable and appreciated. I wish to see the continuous commitment of the programme in reaching new milestones on cancer prevention and control in Sri Lanka.

Dr. Champika Wickramasinghe
MBBS, MSc, MD (Community Medicine)

Deputy Director General (Non-Communicable Diseases)

Message from Director



It is with great pleasure that I present my message for the National Cancer Control Programme's Annual Report for the year 2024. Cancer control activities were successfully coordinated at the national level, despite shifting priorities caused by economic and financial challenges. This report not only highlights the significant strides we have made over the past year but also serves as a testament to the unwavering commitment and hard work of the entire NCCP team, our partners, and stakeholders.

The guidance from the National Advisory Committee on Prevention & Control of Cancers, the National Steering Committee on Palliative Care, and the various Technical Advisory Committees focused on areas; cancer detection, oral cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment, and childhood and adolescent cancer care and cancer registration and research has been fundamental to our success. In addition, the administrative leadership and guidance provided by the Secretary, Additional Secretaries, Director General of Health Services, and Deputy Director Generals (DDGs) are deeply appreciated.

The National Cancer Control Programme sincerely acknowledges the dedication of those who played a role in accomplishing the national objectives. I would also like to express my gratitude to all those who contributed to the creation of this document.

Dr. Sudath Samaraweera
MBBS, MSc, MD (Community Medicine)
Director (Cover-up) National Cancer Control Programme

Acknowledgement

Generating Annual Report of National Cancer Control Programme is identified as an annual activity of National Strategic Plan (NSP) on Prevention and Control of Cancers in Sri Lanka Year 2020 – 2024 under 6.1.4. The year under review is the final year of National Strategic Plan 2020-2024.

On behalf of Editorial Committee of Annual Report, I would like to thank Dr. Champika Wickramasingha, DDG (NCD) for her guidance in developing this publication and issuing a Message to the Annual Report. Also, I would like to thank Dr. Sudath Samaraweera, Director of National Cancer Control Programme for the leadership for the activities conducted during the respective year. Also, the guidance to generate this publication is also highly appreciated. Further, the leadership and active participation of Dr. Shreeni Alahapperuma, Deputy Director NCCP is acknowledged.

The activities conducted under the Annual Action Plan of National Cancer Control Programme based on NSP 2020-2024 in year 2024 was considered for this report. Since NCCP operates through 5 technical units namely (i) Primary Prevention & Early Detection, (II) Oral Cancer Prevention & Control (III) Diagnosis & Treatment (IV) Palliative Care (V) Strategic Information Management, the activities conducted in each unit were considered separately for the Annual Report. Therefore, I would like thank all the Unit heads (Dr. Hasarali, Dr. Prasanna, Dr. Bhanuja, Dr. Suraj) and their team members of each Technical Unit for the provision of the Unit Report.

The creative work of Dr. Nirma Alapitiarachchi of Strategic Information Management Unit is highly appreciated for all the editorial work of this report before commencing the POST MD Training. Further, I need to acknowledge the coordination of Dr. Dhanushka Abeygunathilaka, Senior Registrar of SIM Unit for compiling the final tasks to release the final booklet.

Appreciate the feedback of readership about this report. It will be helpful for further improvement of Annual Report in next year.

Dr. Suraj Perera

Consultant Community Physician
Strategic Information Management Unit
National Cancer Control Programme

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Our Vision and Mission

Our Vision



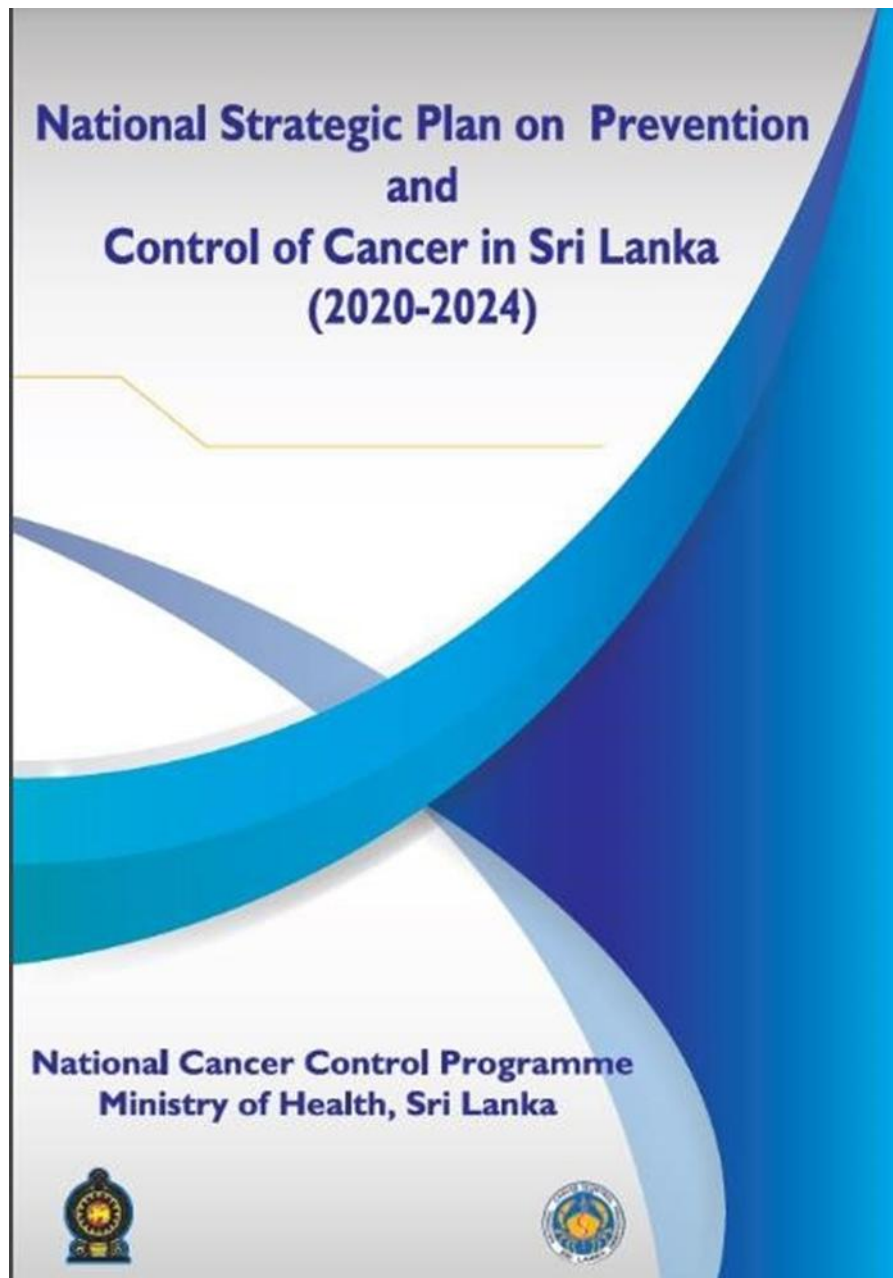
A country with a low incidence of preventable cancers and high survival rates with good quality of life & minimal disabilities suffering from cancer

Our Mission



To reduce the incidence of cancers by controlling and combating determinants of cancers, ensuring early detection and providing holistic & accessible continuum of cancer care which addresses curative treatment options to end of life through an evidence-based approach

National Strategic Plan on Prevention & Control of cancer in Sri Lanka (2020 – 2024)



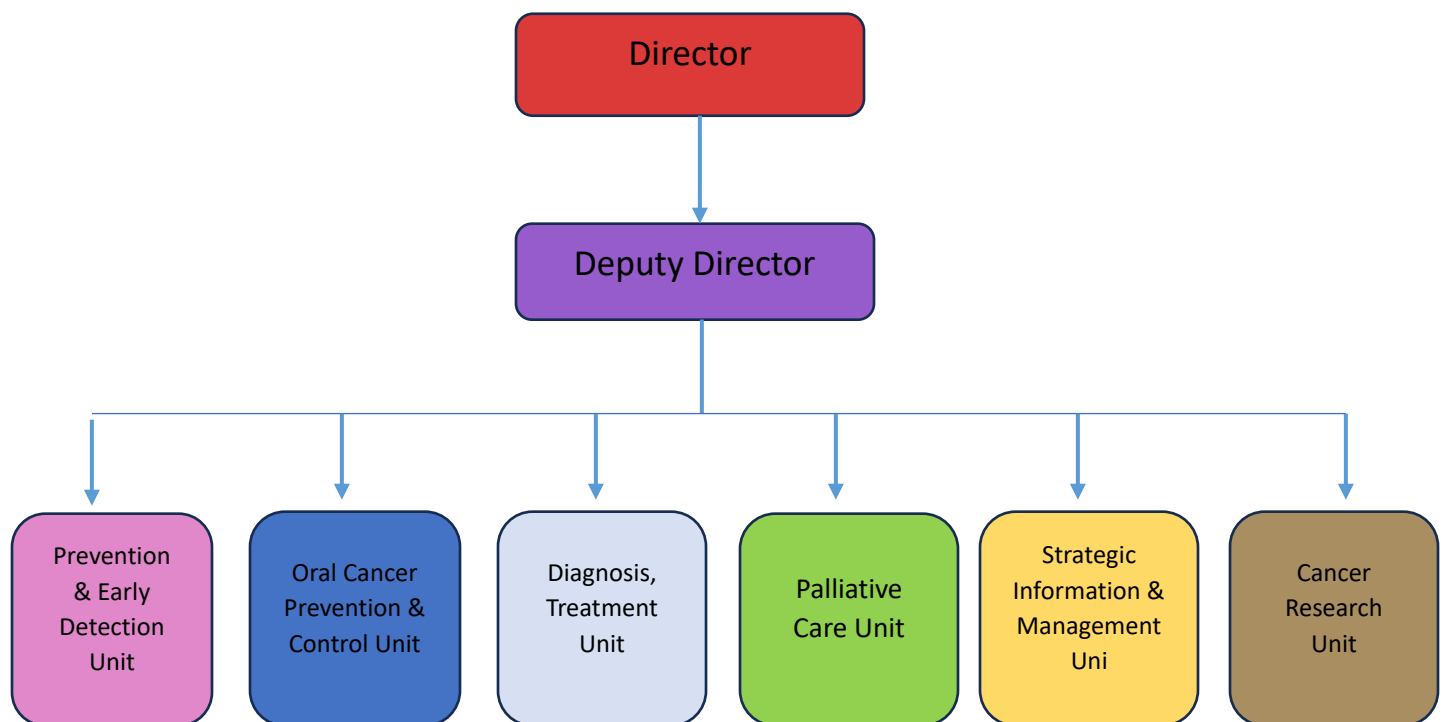
National Cancer Control Planning and Governance

The National Advisory Committee on Prevention and Control of Cancers is the main platform within the Ministry of Health, where high-level decision-making regarding cancer control is done.

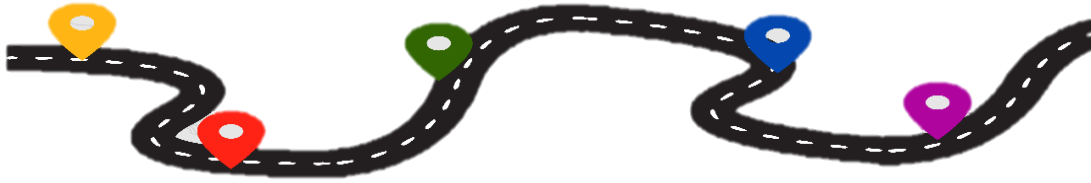
The Technical Advisory Committees (TAC), representing all areas of cancer, assist in developing plans in their respective areas and make recommendations for NAC. Each TAC has its own Terms of Reference approved by the Secretary of Health. It is ensured that TAC meetings are held quarterly with the participation of relevant specialties.

- National Steering Committee on Palliative Care
- Technical Advisory Committee on Prevention & Early Detection
- Technical Advisory Committee on Diagnosis & Treatment
- Technical Advisory Committee on Cancer Registration & Research
- Technical Advisory Committee on Oral Cancer Prevention
- Technical Advisory Committee on Childhood & Adolescent Cancer Care

Organogram of the National Cancer Control Programme



Road Map to 2024



1980

- National Cancer Control Programme was established

1989

- First cancer treatment center outside Colombo was established

1990

- First National Cancer Incidence Data publication using cancer incidence data of 1985 was launched

2004

- Cancer Early Detection Centre was established at Narahenpita

2007

- National Cancer Control Programme was brought to Public Health Complex at Narahenpita

2008

- First International Atomic Energy Agency / World Health Organization (IAEA / WHO) Integrated Missions of Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (imPACT) review in Sri Lanka was conducted

2009

- National Advisory Committee for Cancer Prevention and Control was re-established

2010

- Commencement of the Commemoration of Breast Cancer Awareness Month in Sri Lanka

2011

- Commencement of the Commemoration of World Cancer Day in Sri Lanka – 4th February
- Introduce Palliative Care services in a structured manner

2012

- Surveillance system for Oral cancer and Oral Potentially Malignant Disorders (OPMD) for Oral and Maxillo Facial units and Dental clinics in hospitals was introduced

2015

- National Policy and Strategic Framework on Cancer Prevention and Control in Sri Lanka was launched

2018

- Postgraduate Diploma in Palliative Care introduced

2019

- Restructured the unit system of National Cancer Control Programme as follows:
 - a) Cancer Prevention and Early Detection Unit
 - b) Diagnosis and Treatment Unit
 - c) Palliative Care Unit
 - d) Strategic Information Management Unit
 - e) Oral cancer prevention and control unit
- Second International Atomic Energy Agency / World Health Organization (IAEA / WHO) Integrated Missions of Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (imPACT) review in Sri Lanka was conducted
- National Strategic Framework for Palliative Care Development in Sri Lanka (2019-2023) was launched
- Technical Advisory Committees Established

2020

- National Strategic plan on Cancer prevention and Control 2020-2024 was launched

2021

- National Strategic Plan to Reach the Interim Targets of Cervical Cancer Elimination in Sri Lanka 2021 – 2030
- National Strategic Plan on Childhood & Adolescent Cancer Care in Sri Lanka 2021-2025
- Social Behaviour Change Communication Strategy to support prevention and control of common cancers in Sri Lanka

2022

- Establishment of Cancer Early Detection Centres in Matara and Ratnapura districts
- Launching of Hospital - based Cancer Registries
- A guide for health care professionals ` Palliative Care for Cancer patients in Primary Health Care was published.
- Pilot project 'Integration of palliative care service at district level' was initiated in the Kandy district.
- A communication guide on Palliative Care for Health Care workers was developed

2023

- Printing of the Atlas on confirmed human carcinogens relevant to Sri Lanka in all three languages
- Launching of clinical record for all newly diagnosed patients with oral potentially malignant disorders (OPMD) for comprehensive follow up care.
- Conducting National workshop on palliative care with an international resource team to commemorate the World Palliative Care Day 2023 launching of guide book for healthcare professional on survivorship care

Former Directors of the National Cancer Control Programme



Dr. S. Sivayoham
1980 - 1983



Dr. Marcus Fernando
1983 - 1985



Dr. B.D.P. Gunawardana
1985 - 1987



Dr. Bernard Randeniya
1988 - 1999



Dr. Y. Ariyaratne
1999 - 2007



Dr. N. Paranagama
2009 - 2014



Dr. Eshani Fernando
2014 - 2015



Dr. S. Samaraweera
2015 - 2019



Dr. J. Vidanapathirana
2019 - 2021



Dr. Eshani Fernando
2021 - 2024



Dr. Dewanee Ranaweera
2024 Jan - March

The background features a light gray field with large, overlapping triangular shapes in white and light gray. The corners are decorated with abstract geometric patterns in shades of pink, magenta, and purple, including rectangles, triangles, and nested squares.

Cancer Prevention & Early Detection

The Cancer Prevention & Early Detection Unit

- Ensure implementation, and appropriate extension and be accountable for prevention, & early detection as per national level protocols and provide technical guidance
- Coordinate and work in partnership with public, private, civil society organizations, and development partners at local, national and international levels to improve prevention & early detection services
- Training and capacity building of individuals/institutions in the public, private and civil society organizations on prevention & early detection services
- Manage the Cancer Early Detection Centre at Narahenpita as the National Centre of excellence and provide guidance, support and monitor the regional Cancer Early Detection Centres



Introduction

The year 2024 has marked significant progress for the Cancer Prevention and Early Detection Unit (CPED) of Sri Lanka's National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP). In collaboration with various public and private organizations, the CPED Unit has led efforts to raise cancer awareness, advocate for prevention, and improve early detection nationwide. This year's initiatives emphasized public education, skill development for healthcare professionals, and greater accessibility to cancer detection services. Through collective action across all sectors, Sri Lanka's fight against cancer has made remarkable advancements.

Programme Strengthening

World Cancer Day 2024: Raising Awareness across the Nation

On February 4th, 2024, the CPED Unit marked World Cancer Day with the release of a comprehensive circular and a media briefing to highlight the current cancer situation in Sri Lanka. This annual observance served as an important platform for raising public awareness about cancer prevention and early detection.



Aligned with World Cancer Day, the CPED unit conducted a specialized session to educate media personnel on the critical importance of cancer prevention and early detection. Media representatives were encouraged to amplify these messages, enabling the dissemination of life-

saving knowledge to a wider audience and empowering the public to take proactive steps toward cancer prevention.

Additionally, the CPED unit convened a Technical Advisory Committee meeting to address the rising concern of colorectal cancer, now the third most prevalent cancer in Sri Lanka since 2021. This meeting emphasized the urgent need for targeted prevention and early detection strategies to combat this growing health challenge.

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting



District-Level Training Programs: Empowering Healthcare Workers

Throughout 2024, the CPED Unit facilitated a series of nine district-level Training of Trainers (TOT) programs in collaboration with district Medical Officers for Non-Communicable Diseases (MO NCDs). These programs were held in Colombo, Galle, Rathnapura, Chilaw, Jaffna, Badulla, Kandy, Polonnaruwa, and Ampara, targeting healthcare professionals working in Healthy Lifestyle Centers (HLCs) and Well Women Clinics.

These sessions aimed to enhance the skills of medical officers, nursing officers, and public health midwives in cancer prevention and early detection. By equipping grassroots-level healthcare workers with these essential skills, the CPED Unit ensures that cancer awareness and prevention efforts reach even the most remote communities, enabling better healthcare outcomes across the country.

Capacity-Building Programs: Strengthening the Healthcare Workforce

In 2024, the CPED Unit conducted 12 capacity-building programs to bolster the expertise of healthcare professionals. Among the highlights were Colposcopy training workshops held at National Cancer Institute Maharagama, in partnership with the Family Health Bureau (FHB) and the Sri Lanka College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (SLCOG). These hands-on workshops trained 80 post graduate medical officers in the early detection of cervical cancer.



The CPED Unit also organized specialized training programs for Ayurvedic and General Practitioners, focusing on onco-surgical practices for various cancers, including breast, thyroid, lung, colorectal, oral, and gynecological cancers. These efforts ensure a multidisciplinary approach to cancer care and strengthen the capacity of healthcare providers nationwide.

Specialized training programme for Ayurveda Practitioners



Promoting Teamwork and Staff Wellbeing: Strengthening the NCCP Team

Recognizing the importance of team cohesion and staff wellbeing, the CPED Unit organized a capacity-building program aimed at improving teamwork, communication, and problem-solving among NCCP staff. Team-building activities and interactive games fostered trust, collaboration, and decision-making, enhancing the overall efficiency and morale of the team.



Additionally, six staff training sessions were held on various topics to promote mental health, work-life balance, and professional development. These programs prioritized the personal and professional growth of staff, ensuring their continued effectiveness in serving the public.

1. **Consumer Security** – Focusing on safeguarding the well-being of staff.
2. **Life Skills** – Enhancing essential personal skills for everyday challenges.
3. **Effective Communication Skills** – Developing clearer and more impactful communication techniques.
4. **Hands-on Training on Developing IEC Materials through PowerPoint** – Building skills in creating effective educational resources.

5. **Ayurveda Medicine, Nutrition, and Beauty Culture** – Offering insights into alternative healing practices and wellness.
6. **Social & Dining Etiquette** – Promoting professional conduct and interpersonal interactions within and outside the workplace.



පාරිභෝගික ආරක්ෂණය
Consumer Security

දිනය - 28.03.2024
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දිනය - 19.07.2024
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Hands on training on developing IEC material through PowerPoint

Dr. M. Shanthi
MBBS, MSc, MEd, MPhil
Medical Officer,
ET&R Unit,
Ministry of Health

DATE: 18th June 2024
TIME: 1 pm to 3 pm
VENUE: 7th floor, Auditorium,
Public Health Complex

ALL BRING LAPTOPS TO WORK..!



LIFE SKILLS

CREATIVITY · PROBLEM SOLVING
MINDFULNESS · EMPATHY · TEAMWORK



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දිනය - 20.05.2024
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These programs were designed to improve not just the professional capacities of staff but also their personal well-being, ultimately benefiting both the NCCP and the public it serves.

Expanding Cancer Detection Facilities: A New Center in Uva Province

One of the landmark achievements of 2024 was facilitating the establishment of a Cancer Early Detection Center (CEDC) in TH Badulla. Although still in the initial stages, this center promises to make cancer detection services more accessible to communities in the region, addressing gaps in services for rural populations.

Moreover, the CPED Unit initiated a comprehensive review of existing National Cancer Early Detection Centers to assess their performance, identify areas for improvement, and develop strategies to enhance service delivery nationwide. These efforts aim to ensure that every Sri Lankan has access to timely and reliable cancer screening services.



Training for CEDC Narahenpita Staff: Ensuring High-Quality Service

The priority was given to enhance the quality of services in the CEDC at Narahenpita. A specialized training session was conducted to strengthen staff capabilities in key areas such as infection control, hygiene maintenance, effective communication, and personality development. These efforts aim to ensure that the services provided at these centers adhere to the highest standards, fostering a professional and welcoming environment for patients accessing care.



Conducting Public Awareness on Cancer Prevention and Early Detection

National Breast Cancer Awareness Month: Island-Wide Engagement

October 2024 proved to be a landmark month for cancer awareness as the CPED Unit spearheaded the observance of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Across 25 districts, an impressive 72 awareness walks were organized, bringing together a diverse range of participants, including district MO NCDs, local communities, the Police, tri-forces, Lions Club, Rotary Club, hospital staff, midwifery schools, nursing schools, and other key stakeholders. This united effort highlighted the importance of breast cancer awareness and prevention, fostering a sense of community and shared responsibility in the fight against cancer.





NATIONAL WALK - NARAHENPITA 2ND OCTOBER 2024



NATIONAL WALK - NARAHENPITA

2ND OCTOBER 2024



KILINOCHCHI DISTRICT KANDAWALAI POONKARAY PALAI

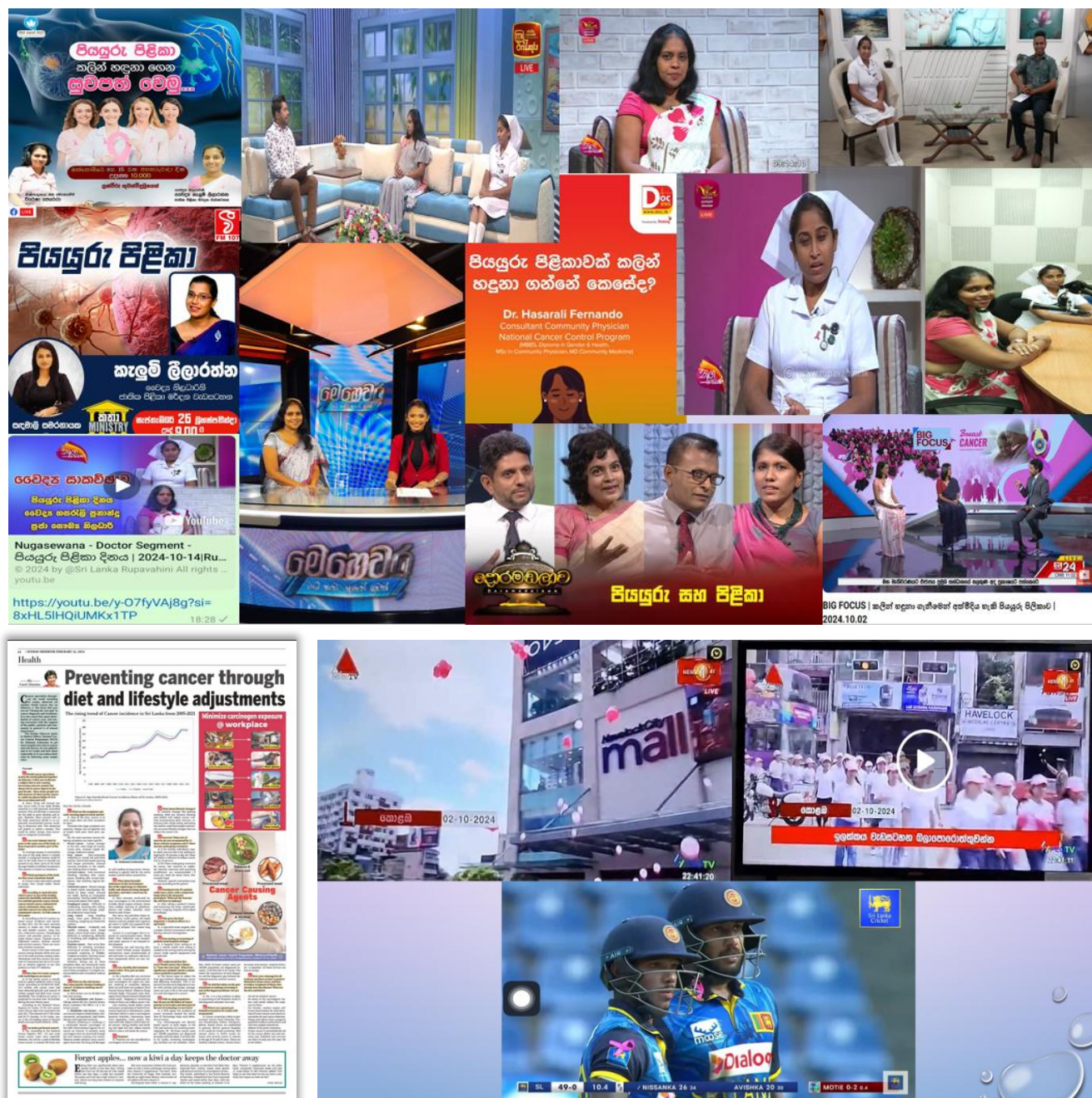


VAVUNIYA DISTRICT VAVUNIYA TOWN VAVUNIYA SOUTH CHEDDIKULUM



These pictures are of only a few walks and they don't do justice to what they have really been.

In addition to these walks, media campaigns were launched across TV, radio, and print media to raise awareness about breast cancer prevention and early detection.



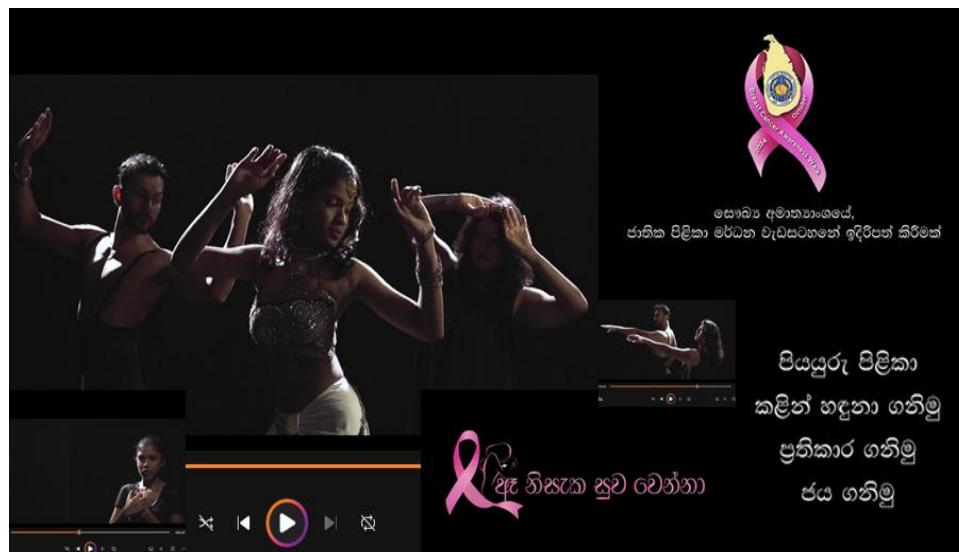
Here only a few of the TV, Radio and printed media contributions are shown

In addition to these initiatives, the CPED Unit produced a variety of Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials to support these efforts. These included digital flyers, posters, and leaflets on breast cancer awareness, self-breast examination guides, and follow-up materials for

patients at the CEDC Narahenpita. These resources serve as crucial tools in promoting regular screening and ensuring that patients receive the necessary follow-up care.



A song especially created for Breast Cancer Awareness was launched at the Breast Cancer Awareness session held at Havelock City Mall



Breast Cancer Awareness digital flyers were displayed on TV screens at six main train stations island wide along with display banners for the month of October.



A Landmark 20y Partnership. Rotary Club of Colombo and the CEDC, Narahenpita

A significant milestone of 2024 was the celebration of a 20-year partnership between the CEDC, Narahenpita and the Rotary Club of Colombo. To commemorate this remarkable collaboration, a special felicitation ceremony was held to honor the Rotary Club for their steadfast dedication and invaluable support to the CEDC. This enduring partnership has played a vital role in advancing cancer prevention and early detection efforts in Sri Lanka.



Over the years, the CEDC has provided a safe and comfortable space for the women of Narahenpita to receive medical services. This includes an HPV screening program, which is a vital part of the early detection efforts.

DNA test machine—all of which play a pivotal role in the early detection of cancer and in improving patient outcomes.

The ceremony not only celebrated this long-standing partnership but also acknowledged the dedicated staff at the CEDC, whose tireless work ensures that the center continues to provide critical cancer detection services to the public. Their efforts have been fundamental in maintaining the high standards of care at the facility, and the CPED Unit took this opportunity to express their gratitude for their hard work and commitment.



Ongoing Cancer Awareness and Screening Programs

Throughout 2024, the NCCP continued its efforts to educate the public on the importance of awareness on cancer and early detection. Regular screening initiatives, alongside community awareness programs, helped to ensure that more people had access to vital screening services.



Battaramulla MOH Area – Awareness programme by Lions Club



Exhibition Unit at BMICH – Medicare Exhibition



Performance of the Cancer Early Detection Centre (CEDC),
Narahenpita

CEDC - Narahenpita Statistics for 2024

Item	Number
------	--------

Total number of patients seen	3203
1 st visits	2739
2 nd visits	464
Males	142 (04%)
Females	3061 (96%)
PAP smears conducted	766
HPV DNA tests (May-Dec)	583
Positivity	89 (15%)
Mammograms conducted	1009
Breast cancers identified	41
Oral cancers identified	02
OPMDs identified	41

Conclusion: A Unified Effort for Cancer Control

The year 2024 has demonstrated that collaborative efforts in cancer prevention and early detection can drive transformative change. Through initiatives ranging from equipping healthcare workers with specialized skills to engaging the public in widespread awareness campaigns, the NCCP has fostered a more informed and proactive society in the fight against cancer.

As Sri Lanka continues to confront the challenges posed by cancer, the principles of collaboration, education, and innovation will remain central to future cancer control strategies. With sustained commitment, we can pave the way toward a healthier, more cancer-aware Sri Lanka, where prevention and early detection are not only healthcare priorities but integral to the nation's overall wellbeing.



Oral Cancer Prevention & Control

The Oral Cancer Prevention and Control Unit

- Provide technical support, assistance, and guidance to provinces, districts and other organizations and agencies in improving quality, supply and access to prevention, early detection & diagnostic services for oral cancers
- Conduct training and capacity building of individuals/institutions in the public, private and civil society organizations
- Conduct surveillance of data related to oral cancer
- Promote and conduct epidemiological and clinical research related to oral cancer and Oral Potentially Malignant Disorders (OPMD) with the collaboration of academic and other relevant research organizations on prevention, early detection and management of oral cancer

Major activities conducted in year 2024

In 2024, oral cancer prevention and control unit was able to organize and conduct art competition on prevention and control of Oral Potentially Malignant Disorders (OPMD)/ Oral Cancer (OC) in 20 districts to create awareness among community through school children to minimize exposure to risk factors and to educate them regarding importance of early detection of oral cancers. Gifts and certificates were distributed to the winners of the art competition. In addition to this, a special programme was organized in Ratnapura district which included art competition, exhibition and awareness programme on prevention and control of OPMD / OC.





A media briefing was held on 24/07/2024 at Health Promotion Bureau to commemorate World Head and Neck Cancer Day. Relevant IEC materials, circulars, fact sheets were distributed among media personnel during the media briefing which can be used as reference to disseminate the message among the general public.



To enhanced capacity of dental surgeons and medical officers working in line ministry hospitals on detection of OPMD and oral cancer, 20 hands on training programmes were conducted in those hospitals. The Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons delivered lectures and did demonstration of OPMD and OC patients in those programmes. Nearly 600 dental surgeons and medical officers participated in those programmes.



National review of oral cancer prevention and control to evaluate oral cancer control activities conducted during 2023 in Sri Lanka was conducted in June 2024 with the participation of 27 Regional Dental Surgeons throughout the country.

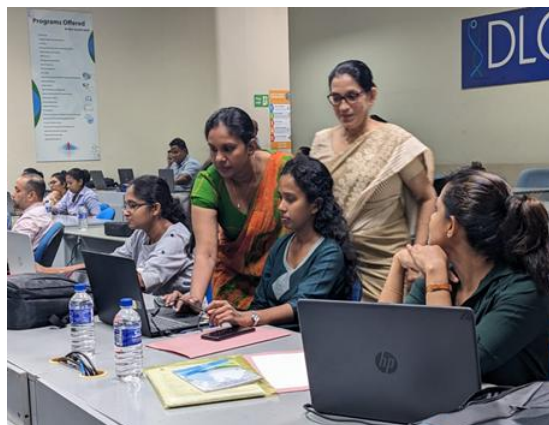


To make the general public aware of prohibition of using and selling of betel, tobacco and areca nut related products in the premises of state institutions, 10,000 posters (8,000 Sinhala and 2,000 Tamil language) were printed. As majority of the public access Grama Niladari offices to obtain services, posters were distributed among these institutions to be displayed in their offices.



A training session on the use of CanReg 5 software—an electronic cancer surveillance system—was conducted on 25th October 2024 at the Distance Learning Centre, SLIDA Building, Colombo 05. This session aimed to enhance the capacity of staff in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgical (OMFS) units to accurately and efficiently capture and manage oral cancer data.

Given that dental surgeons in OMFS units are appointed for two-year terms and are subject to periodic transfers through the annual transfer process, continuous training is essential. Regular capacity-building initiatives ensure that newly appointed staff are proficient in using electronic surveillance tools, thereby supporting the generation of accurate and timely oral cancer data critical for national cancer control efforts.



Procurement and Distribution of Laptops to Strengthen E-Based Cancer Surveillance in 2024.

To enhance the efficiency of electronic cancer surveillance using the CanReg 5 system, five laptops were procured and distributed in 2024. This initiative aimed to support newly established Oral and Maxillofacial (OMF) Surgical units and Regional Dental Surgeons (RDS) involved in oral cancer prevention and control activities across RDHS areas.

The laptops were allocated as follows:

1. OMF Unit – District General Hospital (DGH) Monaragala
2. OMF Unit – Base Hospital (BH), Elpitiya
3. RDHS Office – Kurunegala (for the Regional Dental Surgeon)
4. RDHS Office – Colombo (for the Regional Dental Surgeon)
5. RDHS Office – Nuwara Eliya - (for the Regional Dental Surgeon)

This distribution ensures improved data collection and reporting capabilities, thereby strengthening the national oral cancer surveillance system.

Three Technical Advisory and Consultative Meetings on Oral Cancer Prevention and Control

During the reporting period, two Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings and three additional consultative meetings were conducted to strengthen the national response to oral

cancer prevention and control. These meetings provided a vital platform for stakeholder engagement and collaborative decision-making.

Key outcomes included: Gathering comprehensive inputs from relevant stakeholders to inform the planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of oral cancer prevention and control activities. Achieving stakeholder consensus to guide policy development and ensure coordinated national efforts. Formulating evidence-based recommendations to be submitted to the National Advisory Committee (NAC) for consideration and implementation at the national level.



Diagnosis & Treatment

The Diagnosis and Treatment Unit

- Facilitates implementation of diagnostic and treatment services as per national policies and supports infrastructure development
- Facilitates capacity building and training of individuals and health institutions in association with relevant technical authorities
- Coordinates the development and updating of clinical guidelines and management protocols in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer
- Facilitate the development and updating of radiation safety guidelines, monitoring of radiation safety of workers and patients
- Coordinates the activities of the Diagnosis and Treatment Technical Committee provides necessary recommendations to the National Advisory Committee and facilitates these activities



Team Diagnosis & Treatment

Strengthening of services

Diagnosis and Treatment Unit (D & T Unit) is engaged in strengthening the following aspects of cancer diagnosis and treatment.

- Implementation of services
- Infrastructure development
- Capacity Building
- Monitoring and evaluation

Implementation of services

Establishment of breast care clinics in secondary and tertiary hospitals

Following the suggestions from the 2019 impact review and the recommendations made by the National Advisory Committee led by the Secretary of Health, breast clinics have been established in secondary and tertiary hospitals. By 2024, a total of 26 breast clinics were operational, with **BH Dambadeniya** being the latest addition. Efforts to expand these clinics to Base Hospitals and higher-tier hospitals are ongoing.

Infrastructure development

Distribution of equipment

The Diagnosis and Treatment unit has supported the enhancement of diagnostic and treatment capacities in cancer treatment centres by providing necessary equipment. Funds have been allocated to **DGH Kegalle** to purchase a cytotoxic isolator, and the procurement process is ongoing. Furthermore, the Biomedical Engineering Unit has been directed to acquire cytotoxic isolators for **TH Kurunegala**, **BH Thellippalai**, **TH Rathnapura**, and **DGH Gampaha**, where the need for this equipment had been identified.

Multiple discussions were taking place with senior officials at the Ministry of Health to commence phase two of the project for procurement of the LINAC machines for cancer treatment centres where they are required.

Radiation Safety activities

This year, we are actively engaged in international projects, particularly **SRL 9012 – “Supporting Prerequisites for Quality Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment”**, in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Atomic Energy Board (SLAEB) and the International Atomic Energy Authority (IAEA). The focus of this project is to provide training for radiographers and physicists on radiation protection guidelines and training radiation safety officers on the 'Terms of Reference for Radiation Safety Officers.' The overarching goal is to enhance radiation safety practices, particularly in cancer treatment centres within the health sector.

Following two previous expert missions, the third mission took place this year. The progress of the ongoing project was reviewed, and discussions were held regarding the implementation of its remaining activities. Several meetings were conducted with national-level stakeholders and relevant technical staff, including physicists and radiographers. The team also visited the radiotherapy facilities at **NCIM** and **TH Karapitiya**.

As part of this project, Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) equipment will be donated to improve the quality control and assurance of cancer diagnosis and treatment services in Sri Lanka. The D&T unit is in the process of supporting the registration requirements for this donation.

Furthermore, the D&T unit coordinated with various stakeholders to nominate members for upcoming projects slated for implementation during the 2024-2025 cycle by the IAEA. This collaborative effort aims to contribute to the advancement of radiation safety activities in healthcare settings.

Third expert mission IAEA



Capacity Building

Breast cancer care training for public health staff

To increase awareness of breast cancer among public health staff, two-day training programmes were conducted in Sabaragamuwa and Uva provinces. In Sabaragamuwa Province, Rathnapura and Kegalle were included while in Uva province, they were Badulla and Monaragala. Training consisted of lectures by consultants on the epidemiology of breast and other cancers in Sri Lanka, the concept of breast clinics & services available in Sri Lanka and referral pathways, changes in normal breasts (non-cancerous and cancerous), addressing the psychological aspects of breast cancer care, self-breast examination and the clinical breast examination, different treatment modalities for breast cancer, strategies to overcome side effects of breast cancer treatments and palliative care aspects of breast cancer.

Practical sessions were also conducted to provide hands-on skills in clinical breast examination and self-breast examination. An e-certificate of participation was sent to all the public health staff who participated in the training.

Audio and visual educational materials including guideline books on self and clinical breast examination, leaflets and some posters were distributed to all participants to increase awareness of breast cancer and to train public health and hospital health staff.

Comprehensive Breast care training for PHNS/SPHM/PHMs of Sabaragamuwa Province



Comprehensive Breast care training for PHNS/SPHM/PHMs of Uva Province



Monitoring and evaluation

Strengthen breast clinics in Sri Lanka.

All breast clinics are required to submit monthly reports in a format developed and distributed by the National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP). The collected data is then evaluated at the national level to assess the clinics' performance.

Supervisory visits were conducted to all hospitals with breast clinics in Sri Lanka to evaluate their preparedness and ability to operate smoothly. During these visits, the functioning breast clinics were identified, and an updated list was developed. Strengths and weaknesses of each clinic were assessed. Additionally, discussions were held on the importance of properly completing and submitting the monthly reports, as well as strategies to increase visibility and improve the functionality of the breast clinics.

Supervisory visits to Breast clinics at TH Karapitiya and DGH Hambanthota



National breast clinic review

Two-day residential programme was conducted to review the progress and functions of breast clinics island wide and to give refresher training for health staff in breast clinics in government health institutions in Sri Lanka.

Nursing officers from breast clinics and some medical officers who conduct the breast clinics participated and presented their progress. Each presentation was followed by a discussion on how to overcome their weaknesses and possible suggestions. Refresher training consisted of lectures by consultants on various aspects of breast cancer care. Practical sessions were conducted on clinical breast examination and self-breast examination. Participants were also trained on the use of national database of breast clinics and record-keeping activities. In recognition of their exceptional teamwork and dedication, two breast clinics

— the breast clinic at Teaching Hospital Karapitiya and the breast clinic at Base Hospital Kalmunai — were awarded for their outstanding performance and successful service delivery.

National breast clinic review and refresher training for health staff in breast clinics in government health institutions in Sri Lanka



Gap analysis of cancer care in Centers of Excellence and Cancer treatment centers

There is an unusual waiting list and long delay in cancer services with respect to diagnosis and timely treatment all over the country. Further, specialized facilities are concentrated only in Apeksha hospital and few major hospitals, forcing patients from other regions to travel long distances to access these services. As a result, many patients lose valuable time while waiting for specialized cancer treatments.

Sri Lanka has nine cancer care treatment centers distributed as one per province. By conducting a gap analysis of the cancer treatment centres, areas where improvements were needed to strengthen the healthcare system were identified. Addressing these gaps will help reduce the prolonged waiting times for cancer diagnosis and treatment. Additionally, it will minimize the unnecessary travel burden on patients who have to travel from one region to another. Ultimately, these improvements will ensure timely treatment.

Visits to Cancer Treatment Centres at TH Rathnapura and TH Kurunegala



The background of the slide is an abstract composition of various geometric shapes, including triangles and polygons, in shades of green and grey. The shapes are arranged in a way that creates a sense of depth and movement. The text "Palliative Care" is centered in the middle of the slide, in a bold, green, sans-serif font.

Palliative Care

Palliative Care Unit

Accordingly, Palliative Care Unit

- work within and support the relevant national committees and technical working groups to develop and regularly update national policies, strategies, guidelines, protocols and frameworks for implementation of palliative care services in Sri Lanka
- conduct capacity building of individuals/institutions in the public, private and civil society organizations on palliative care.
- work in partnership with public, private, civil society organizations, and development partners at local, national and international level to improve palliative care services.
- monitor and evaluate palliative care services with Strategic Information Management Unit.

Strengthening of Services in Palliative Care

National Steering Committee Meeting on Palliative Care

Three meetings were conducted under the leadership of the Director General of Health Services. Resource persons representing different fields of palliative care including health, non-health and NGOs participated in the meetings. Key areas addressed during the meetings were:

- Strengthening palliative care services in the country
- Capacity building on palliative care
- Updating National Strategic Framework for Palliative Care Development in Sri Lanka
- Availability of morphine and other opioid analgesics for palliative care and planning subcutaneous morphine delivery
- Social services for palliative care
- Strengthening palliative care given by the Hospices and Community Based Organizations

Developing the Management Information System on Palliative Care (MIS-PC)



Establishing a Management Information System on Palliative Care (MIS-PC) is a basic and vital component for improvement of palliative care services in Sri Lanka. Therefore, following six consultative meetings conducted during the year 2024 in collaboration with the NCD Directorate of Ministry of Health and other stakeholders including MOO-NCD and relevant Nursing Officers. Resource persons from the National Cancer Institute Sri Lanka, National Hospital Kandy and experts from the NCCP and NCD Directorate contributed to finalize the first drafts of the returns and Palliative Care Unit of the NCCP was able to finalize the quarterly and annual returns on Palliative Care services through consensus. Finally, they were reviewed for the practical feasibility among selected healthcare institutions representing primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare levels in the Western Province of Sri Lanka. The aim of this project is to develop MIS-PC for Sri Lanka with the view of monitoring and evaluating palliative care services for further strengthening the Palliative Care services in the country.

Developing the National Strategic Framework on Palliative care Development in Sri Lanka 2025-2030



At the inaugural meeting of the National Steering Committee on Palliative Care, a subcommittee was appointed to draft National Strategic Framework for Palliative Care in Sri Lanka to streamline the process of palliative care development. Accordingly, the first publication of “National Strategic Framework for Palliative Care Development in Sri Lanka 2019 - 2023” was printed in 2019.

Review of existing National Strategic Framework on Palliative Care was initiated during 2024. The palliative care round table model by WHO was referred to, in the process. Developing “National Strategic Plan on Prevention and Control of Cancer in Sri Lanka for the 2025 - 2030” was commenced by holding the first consultative meeting on 29.11.2024. Inputs from national and international experts were sought for the development of the National Strategic Framework.



Capacity Building on Palliative Care

Visit by the International Resource Team from APHN to strengthen palliative care services in Sri Lanka

Asia Pacific Hospice and Palliative Care Network (APHN) is a professional organization working on palliative care consisting of membership of palliative care professionals and activists of Asia Pacific region. To extend the support for palliative care training in Sri Lanka a team of professionals from APHN visited Sri Lanka from 11th – 14th March 2024.

During their visit they contributed to the strengthening of palliative care services through;

- Visiting the Secretary of Health, DDG-NCD and Director NCCP to explore the possibility of continuing technical support for palliative care development in Sri Lanka



- Participating at the programme organized by the NCCP in collaboration with the Directorate of Nursing (Medical Services) on strengthening of Palliative Care Services through the contributions of Palliative Care Nursing officers and Nursing Officers from Oncology Units on 12th March, 2024 at the Post Basic College of Nursing
- Participating at the programme for Consultant Oncologists, Oncology trainees and Medical Officers of Oncology organized by the Palliative Care Unit of NCISL and the College of Oncologists in collaboration with the NCCP on 13th March, 2024 at NCISL
- Participating at the programme on Non-Cancer Palliative care for hospital Directors organized by the Directorate of NCD and SLMA Palliative Care and End of Life Care Task Force on 14th March, 2024 at SLMA office

Training of trainers' programmes conducted on Survivorship Care and Palliative Care

Six training of trainers (ToT) programmes were conducted for Medical Officers and Nursing officers from Secondary and Tertiary healthcare institutions in Sri Lanka. The institutions included; National Cancer Institute Sri Lanka (NCISL), National Hospital Galle, Teaching Hospital Ratnapura, District General Hospitals of Hambantota and Polonnaruwa. The aim of these training programmes was to empower the focal point staff attached to cancer treatment centres and other interactive specialized units of healthcare institutions to be trained as trainers on survivorship care and palliative care. The programmes were conducted through lectures, presentations as well as practical case discussions based on the two publications of NCCP; the Survivorship Guide and the Communication Guide. Concepts of survivorship care and skills on

effective communication and counselling of cancer patients were covered through these programmes.



Developing IEC material related to palliative care, survivorship and rehabilitation

Childhood Cancer Caregiver Education Book

In order to strengthen care given by informal and formal caregivers for childhood and adolescent cancer patients a 'Childhood Cancer Caregiver Education Book' was first published by NCCP in 2020. With the aim of updating its contents and increasing its availability, NCCP has initiated a project to revise and reprint a new edition of this book with the WHO funds.

Three consultative meetings were conducted to revise and update the Childhood Cancer Caregiver Education Book in 2024. Through these meetings expert inputs were obtained from the resource persons from Lady Ridgeway Hospital and NCISL and a draft was developed. The final draft of the revised Childhood Cancer Caregiver Booklet has been circulated among the resource persons and the finalized version of this book will be printed in 2025. The book will be published in both languages; Sinhalese and Tamil.



Creating Public Awareness

Media Briefing to commemorate 'World Hospice and Palliative Care Day – 2024'

A media briefing was conducted by the Palliative Care Unit, National Cancer Control Programme coordinating with the Health Promotion Bureau to commemorate the World Hospice and Palliative Care Day on 12th October 2024.

The theme for the year 2024 was "Ten Years since the Resolution: How Are We Doing?". This event was attended by resource persons representing National Cancer Control Programme, NCD Directorate and National Cancer Institute of Sri Lanka as well as media personnel. Key messages related to palliative care services with the aim of increasing awareness among the public on the subject were delivered during this event.



Monitoring and Evaluation

National Review of Nursing Officers holding Post Basic Diploma in Palliative Care

A review was conducted with the aim of providing orientation for the first batch of Palliative Care Nursing Officers following completion of the Post Basic Diploma in Palliative Medicine in 2023. The review was conducted on 12.03.2024 at the Post Basic College of Nursing, Sri Lanka. Both international and national level experts from the field of Palliative Care participated at this review and the topics discussed were; commencing Palliative care services at Tertiary Care & Secondary Care Services for Cancer and Non-Cancer Patients, Palliative care Nurses' role in establishing palliative care services, Palliative Care service development at Tertiary Care/ Secondary Care Hospitals and Job description for Palliative Care Nursing Officers.



National Review of Palliative Care Consult Services (PCCS) in Sri Lanka

National Review on Palliative Care Consult Services (PCCS) was held successfully with the participation of Ministry Officials, Provincial directors of Health Services, Regional Directors of Health Services, provincial and district Consultant Community Physicians, Directors of the Health institutions, relevant clinicians, medical officers and nursing officers. The main objectives of the review were to monitor and appreciate the established PCCS, to share best practices through presentations, to make the audience aware on palliative care and PCCS and to promote tertiary and secondary care hospitals to establish PCCS. Following the review the strengths, challenges and way forward was discussed and advocacy was given to the all institutions to establish PCCS.





Strategic Information Management

The Strategic Information Management (SIM) Unit

- Coordination of surveillance of cancers at the national level - National Cancer Registry & Population-based cancer registries in selected districts, hospital-based cancer registries, Pathology laboratory-based cancer registries
- Development of Monitoring and Evaluation frameworks, coordination of monitoring & evaluation of prevention & control of cancers at provincial & district levels in liaising with other technical units of the NCCP
- Coordination of health information management at the NCCP level, including updating the website of NCCP
- Coordinate with other technical units for cross-cutting issues (e.g., Global Initiative of Childhood Cancers - 'GICC')

In addition, the cancer research unit is not established yet as an independent technical unit, and activities related to cancer research are also coordinated.

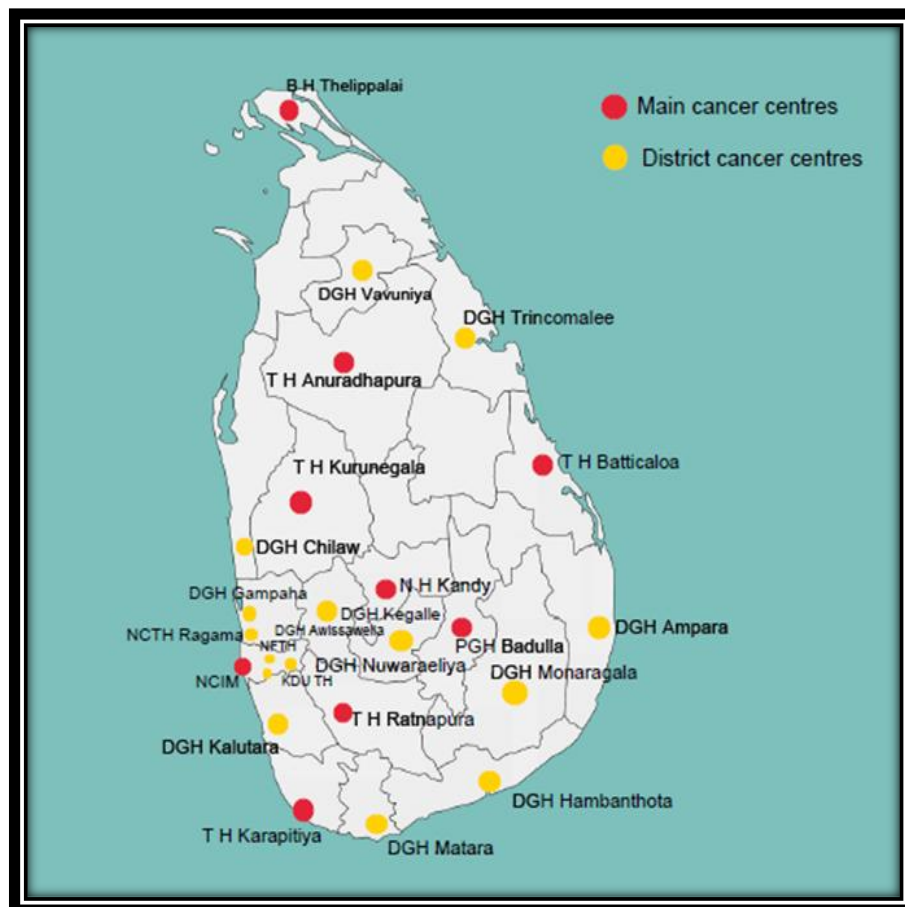


Surveillance of cancer

One of the main functions of the Strategic Information Management (SIM) unit of the National Cancer Control Programme is coordination of surveillance of cancers in Sri Lanka with the active participation of hospital network including cancer treatment centres, pathology laboratories, Oral and Maxillo Facial (OMF) units and medical record departments of government and private sector hospitals. In addition, works with Registrar General's Department for cancer mortality information including direct cancer mortality surveillance at Colombo district through the death registrars. Since cancer surveillance is the key function of the unit, up to 2020 this unit was called as Cancer registry unit /cancer surveillance unit.

The summary details related to new patient registration at cancer treatment centres is the latest information available in relation to cancer surveillance.

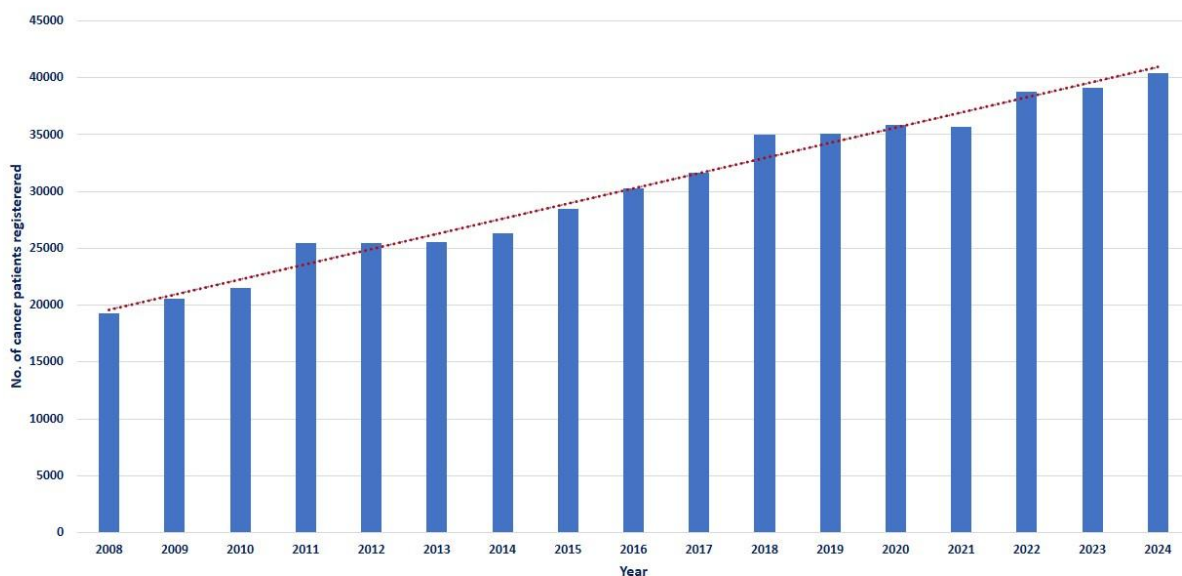
Distribution of Government Cancer Centers



New Patient Registration at the Government Cancer Treatment Centres 2008 – 2024

Cancer Centre	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
NCI Maharagama	11163	11756	11513	12403	12550	12689	13247	13890	14248	13651	14171	13928	11864	11686	13113	13711	13720
NH Kandy	3648	3634	4046	5042	3717	3516	4000	4023	3877	4150	4042	3882	3889	3619	4386	4940	5193
TH Karapitiya	1764	1866	1793	2193	2158	2455	2479	2394	2595	2585	2652	2473	2442	2372	2548	2763	3061
BH Tellippalai (TH Jaffna)	412	479	659	1055	1048	1061	1032	1100	1099	1103	1186	1198	1304	1615	1257	1344	1405
TH Anuradhapura	712	551	641	698	803	850	1114	1300	1131	1214	1483	1429	1542	1621	1632	1621	1539
PGH Badulla	753	794	858	1430	2152	2203	1527	2285	2225	2015	2151	2591	2552	2220	2365	2079	2072
TH Batticaloa		169	565	727	1094	932	897	900	1325	1048	876	699	924	1076	1235	1146	1094
TH Kurunegala	538	804	806	1174	1122	1042	1238	1680	1863	2062	2206	2177	2091	2103	2277	1988	2042
TH Rathnapura	319	485	636	735	808	767	807	902	1094	1103	1076	1098	1152	1016	970	1022	985
NCTH Ragama											747	648	819	1020	1408	1649	1668
DGH Gampaha										153	580	776	673	602	846	725	765
DGH Avissawella											76	294	274	313	334	313	351
DGH Kalutara											480	492	647	595	678	440	584
DGH Nuwara Eliya									238	236	203	286	414	353	463	435	410
DGH Matara												180	405	507	580	524	654
DGH Hambanthota										177	312	427	460	534	679	713	772
DGH Vavuniya										26	223	253	240	276	202	296	271
DGH Polonnaruwa										648	699	615	714	622	525	353	517
DGH Monaragala								125	136	413	262	266	256	172	177	204	204
DGH Trincomalee									702	568	350	333	260	313	60	43	43
DGH Ampara									164	140	111	161	156	180	158	226	311
DGH Chilaw									91	239	455	591	673	648	612	483	592
DGH Kegalle									183	276	243	297	332	337	293	311	407
DGH Embilipitiya														68	93	9	0
DGH Matale														49	304	328	318
KDU Hospital													1489	1614	1179	1406	1365
NFTH													208	106	150	53	78
Total	19309	20538	21517	25457	25452	25515	26341	28474	30258	31664	34953	35107	35863	35668	38772	39115	40421

New Patient Registration at the Government Cancer Treatment Centres 2008 – 2024



The key activities conducted in the year 2024, in relation to cancer surveillance are listed below.

1.2 Conducting Meetings of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on Cancer Registration and Research

The Technical Advisory Committee on cancer registration and research was established with the approval of Secretary -Health and first meeting was conducted on 10th March 2020. The Deputy Director General (Public Health Services I) acts as the chairperson of the committee and Consultant Community Physician attached to the Strategic Information Management Unit acts as the Secretary for the Technical Advisory Committee. The recommendations of the Technical Advisory Committee are communicated to the 'National Advisory Committee on Prevention & Control of Cancers'.

Terms of Reference (TOR) of the Technical Advisory Committee is mentioned below.

1. Provide technical advice on planning, implementation, monitoring & evaluation of the "National policy & strategic framework on cancer prevention & control - Sri Lanka".
2. Identify strategies to strengthen the cancer surveillance in Sri Lanka with the introduction of health information technology solutions.
3. Identify strategies to promote, and facilitate cancer research and disseminate the research findings
4. Review the progress and address challenges/issues which arise during the process of strengthening cancer registration and cancer research in Sri Lanka.

Two meetings were conducted in year 2024 on 01. 03.2024 and on 24.07.2024.

1.2 Conducting Meetings of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on Childhood & Adolescent Cancer Care

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on childhood & adolescent cancer care is the newly formulated TAC under NCCP in addition to existing committees on; cancer prevention & early detection, cancer diagnostics & treatment, and palliative care survivorship. The committee is co-chaired by Deputy Director General (NCD) & Deputy Director General (Medical Services 1).

Terms of Reference (TOR) of the Technical Advisory Committee is mentioned below.

1. Provide technical advice on implementation, monitoring & evaluation of National Strategic Plan on Childhood & Adolescent Cancer Care 2021-2025 Sri Lanka.
2. Address challenges / issues which arise during the process of implementation of National Strategic Plan on Childhood & Adolescent Cancer Care 2021-2025 & submit recommendations to the National Advisory Committee on Prevention & Control of Cancers

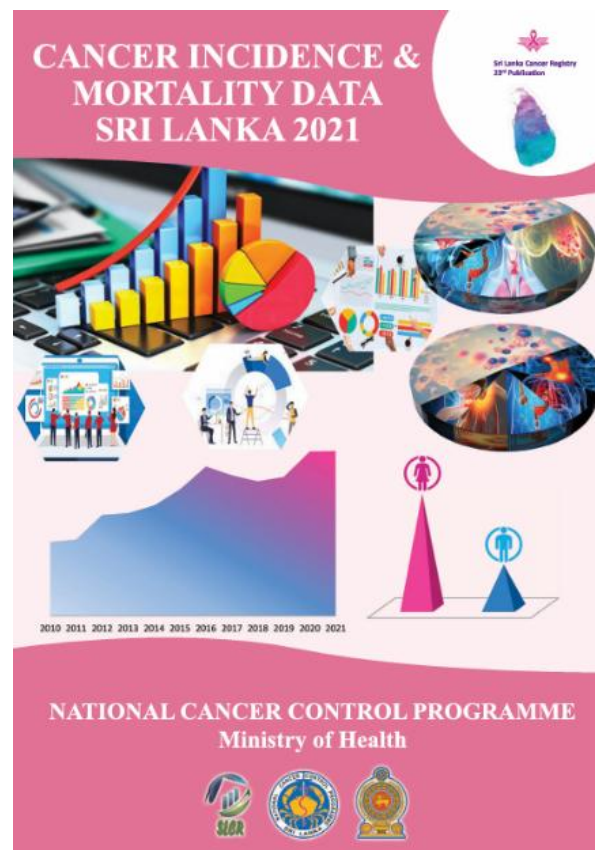
3. Promote research related to Childhood & Adolescent Cancer and utilization of research evidence in decision making
4. Identify further activities to strengthen the childhood and adolescent cancer care in Sri Lanka with the detailed analysis of evidence arising from Paediatric Cancer Registry and other related information

Two meetings were conducted in year 2024 on 04.06.2024, and 04.10.2024.

1.3 Publications of National Cancer Incidence Data 2021

Analyzing cancer incidence data and generating publications is a crucial step in disseminating findings to the scientific community and the public. It demonstrates transparency and accountability in research efforts, while also contributing valuable insights to the field of cancer epidemiology.

Processing cancer incidence data in 2021 suggests a timely response to gather and analyze crucial health information. Therefore, after obtaining relevant data, the NCCP team verified and analyzed cancer incidence data to generate the publication “Cancer Incidence & Mortality Data Sri Lanka 2021”.



1.4 Processing of cancer incidence data 2022

In the year 2024, all the cancer treatment centres were asked to prioritize sending recently reported cancer cases in 2022 for the processing of cancer incidence data 2022. The SIM unit team did continuous monitoring of data entering, data coding, assessing quality of data from each cancer treatment center and did all the necessary arrangements for initiation of analysis of cancer incidence data 2022.

1.5 Monitoring of Cancer Surveillance Activities

1.5.1 *Monitoring of Cancer Surveillance at cancer treatment centres in the Year 2024*

National Cancer Surveillance Form and CanReg 5 software was introduced to each cancer treatment centre for cancer surveillance. It was expected that newly detected cancers would be entered to the CanReg 5 software. Some cancer centres were able to maintain up to date cancer registry data base at the hospital level. Visited each cancer centre and quality checked the data entered into the Canreg5 database. Each member is trained to enter good quality data. Pre intern medical officers were trained for the Centres which do not provide data timely data, for a short period of time to complete 2022 and 2023 data of cancer centres.



1.5.2 *Monitoring of Cancer Surveillance at Pathology Laboratories*

During the year 2024, pathology laboratory-based cancer surveillance was closely monitored to improve the coverage and timeliness of reporting.

1.5.3 *Monitoring of Cancer Surveillance at Oral & Maxillo-Facial Units*

Cancer surveillance at OMF units were monitored by the Oral Cancer Prevention and Control Unit of The National Cancer Control Programme. The Strategic Information Management Unit provided technical support for cancer surveillance since the CanReg 5 software was introduced to OMF unit for cancer surveillance.

1.5.4 Monitoring of Cancer Mortality Surveillance in Colombo district

1.6 Capacity Building of Cancer Registry Staff at Cancer Treatment Centres

Cancer registry staff at cancer treatment centres were trained on Canreg 5 software, data coding, and analyzing cancer registry data using Canreg 5 software in 11. 12. 2024 and 12. 12. 2024.



Monitoring & Evaluation of Prevention & Control of Cancers

2.1 Conducting National Advisory Committee Meeting on Prevention & Control of Cancers

The National Advisory Committee Meeting on Prevention and Control of Cancers is the main statutory body for the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of National Policy and Strategic Framework on Prevention and Control of Cancers. Two meetings were conducted in the year 2024 on 15.03.2024 and 05.08.2024.



2.2 Conducting District Cancer Control Reviews

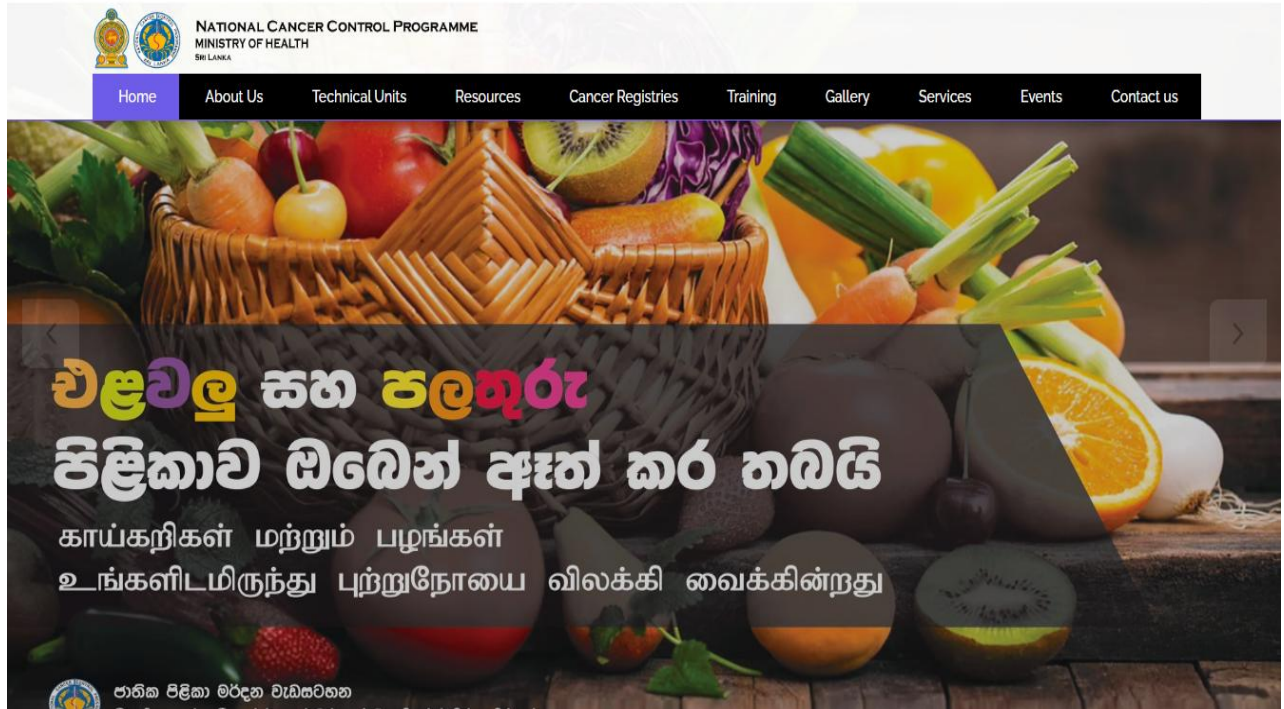
The district cancer control activities were conducted along with district NCD review at district level.

Health Information Management

3.1 NCCP Website

The website of National Cancer Control Programme can be accessible through,

<https://www.nccp.health.gov.lk/en>



Cancer Research

4.1 Cancer Research Priorities

Research Priorities of Public Health Importance for Prevention & Control of Cancers in Sri Lanka was published at the National Cancer Control Programme.

Research Priorities of Public Health Importance for Prevention & Control of Cancers in Sri Lanka

Year 2023/2024

Thematic areas

- Primary Prevention & Early Detection of Cancer
- Breast Cancer
- Cervical Cancer
- Oral cancer
- Paediatric cancers
- Other Common Cancers
- Diagnosis & Treatment of Cancers
- Survivorship & Palliative Care of Cancers

Primary Prevention & Early Detection of Cancer

1. Effectiveness of Healthy Lifestyle Centre (HLC) intervention for primary prevention of cancers
2. Qualitative research on sociocultural determinants of the occurrence of cancers and related myths
3. Awareness on cancer risk factors among high-risk groups
4. Effectiveness of regulations related to risk factor control in prevention & control of cancers. (Tobacco smoking, Smokeless tobacco, areca nut, and commercially prepared tobacco and areca nut products)
5. Use of safety measures for prevention of occupation-related cancers
6. Acceptance of Cancer Early Detection Centre initiative as a method of early detection of cancers
7. Study on contribution of private sector for early detection of cancers

Breast Cancer

1. Needs assessment, patient perspectives and effectiveness of breast clinics
2. Effectiveness & outcome of clinical breast examination at Well Women Clinic & Healthy Lifestyle Centres
3. Utilization pattern of mammography services at government and private sector hospitals
4. Assessment of preparedness to conduct breast clinics in a sustainable manner in secondary & tertiary care hospitals

Cervical Cancer

1. Readiness to achieve targets of the global initiative on elimination of cervical cancer as a public health problem
2. Feasibility of introducing follow-up pre-cancer registry for cervical cancer patients
3. Factors for not attending cervical cancer screening at the age of 35 years and 45 years
4. Prevalence of cervical precancer and cancer among vulnerable groups – STD Clinic attendees, Commercial Sex workers etc
5. Utilization of colposcopy services for cervical precancer care

Oral cancer

1. Gaps in early detection programme of OPMD/oral cancers
2. Contribution of HPV infections for development of oro pharyngeal cancers
3. Costing studies of early detection of oral cancer and oral cancer care
4. Quality of life of oral cancer survivors
5. Care pathways and delays of oral cancer care
6. Effectiveness of options available for management of OPMD
7. Barriers and enabling factors for surveillance of OPMD/Oral cancer in oral healthcare settings
8. Malignant transformation rate among patients with OPMD in Sri Lanka
9. Effectiveness of adjunct methods in detection of OPMD in Sri Lanka
10. Survival rates of Oral cancers in Sri Lanka
11. Effectiveness of public health strategies and approaches to prevent oral cancer
12. Challenges faced to control of oral cancer in primary health care settings

Paediatric cancers

1. Survival rates on WHO GICC Index Cancers – Acute Lymphocytic Leukaemia, Burkitt Lymphoma, Retinoblastoma, Wilm's Tumour, Low Grade Glioma
2. Long-term survivorship issues of childhood cancer survivors
3. Study of care pathways and delays of childhood cancer care
4. Adverse effects following childhood cancer care
5. Audit on childhood cancer deaths in Sri Lanka

6. Costing studies on childhood cancer care (Out of pocket expenditure & Institutional cost)
7. cost)
8. Awareness & educational needs of primary care medical officers on early identification of childhood cancers
9. Effects of current economic crisis for management of childhood cancers

Other Common Cancers

1. Gaps on awareness on symptoms and signs of common cancers among primary health care team
2. Care pathways of Colo rectal cancers and delays of early diagnosis of colon cancers
3. Survival rates of common cancers – Colo rectal cancers, thyroid cancers, oesophageal cancers

Diagnosis & Treatment of Cancers

1. Utilization pattern of MRI, CT for diagnosis of cancers
2. Knowledge and practices of radiation protection in diagnostic imaging
3. Health seeking behavior of patients with different cancers including breast, cervix, and oral cancer..... etc
4. Adverse effects of radiotherapy among patients receiving care from Cobalt & Linac machines
5. Health seeking behavior of patients with different cancers – Community based study
6. Utilization of brachytherapy in Cancer Treatment Centers
7. Retrospective assessment of treatment cost of selected cancers
8. Radiation safety monitoring at health care settings
9. Study on management of clinical (chemotherapy and radiotherapy) waste in CTCs 10
Gap analysis of cancer care in Centers of Excellence and CTCs

Survivorship & Palliative Care of Cancers

1. Assessment of palliative care consult services at secondary and tertiary care
2. An assessment of existing hospice care services for palliative care - available resources, barriers and opportunities
3. Experiences of provision of palliative care services at primary care level
4. Assessment of palliative care service provision of Public Health Nursing Officers.
5. Educational needs on palliative care among primary care medical officers
6. Assessment of care giver needs of primary care givers of palliative care patients at home setting
7. Barriers and strengths of maintain continuous supply of Morphine for cancer pain management

Team Members Transferred out of NCCP



Dr. Eshani Fernando

Director



Dr. Dewanee Ranaweera

Deputy Director



Dr. Yasoma Weerasekara

Consultant Community Physician

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Dr. Janaka Chandana

Senior Registrar

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Registrar Community Dentistry
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Dr. Tharani Rajendra
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Medical Officer
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Dr. Dulanjali Luxamana
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Dr. Chulaka Jayaweera
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Administrative Officer



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Ms. Niroshi Rajakaruna
Public Health Nursing Sister
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Ms. Chammi Dinusha Balasuriya

Nursing Officer

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Ms. M.D.N. Surangi

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Mr. Amila Bandara

Driver



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Dr. Nirmala Jayanthi
Dr. Thusitha Kahaduwa
Dr. Thisari Dilshika
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