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abstract

National Workshop Highlighting Pediatric Cancer Top Priorities In Moldova

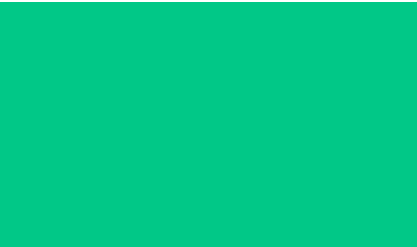
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National Workshop Highlighting Pediatric Cancer Top Priorities In Moldova

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Introduction: With approximately 90-100 new pediatric cancer cases annually, Moldova's healthcare system faces significant challenges in providing comprehensive care. The only specialized ward for chemotherapy and radiotherapy is located at the Institute of Oncology, serving both adult and pediatric patients.

In collaboration with St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, the PROFILE assessment tool identified major barriers, including the absence of a pediatric cancer registry, lack of specialized diagnostics, fragmented services, limited access to advanced treatments, and insufficient research and innovation capacities.

Methodology: To address the barriers outlined in the PROFILE reports and create a platform for stakeholder discussions, a National Workshop was organized on April 23, 2024. The objectives were to review existing services for children with cancer, introduce the Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer and the CureAll Framework, and define key areas for multidisciplinary collaboration. The event gathered 53 participants, including representatives from government and

regulatory authorities, international experts, local medical professionals, parent organizations, and professional medical societies.

Results: Key discussions focused on improving diagnostic capacities to expand treatment options, including referrals for treatment abroad, enhancing critical and palliative care services, and ensuring the provision of quality medicines. The workshop concluded with a resolution containing over 40 recommendations aimed at both regulatory changes and practical implementation to improve pediatric cancer care.

Conclusion: The resolution was shared with the Ministry of Health, WHO Country Office, and the Parliamentary Committee on Health, among others. These recommendations will be integrated into strategic documents outlining short-, mid-, and long-term activities to improve pediatric cancer care in Moldova by 2030, aligning with broader health protection policies.