

Answers for Lithuania, provided by the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Lithuania

Which are the NCCP priorities with regards to rare cancers?

In Lithuanian NCCP there is a separate section for hereditary cancers. Lithuanian Plan of national activities related to rare diseases is dedicated to all rare diseases (including rare cancers).

Where are rare cancer patients treated in Lithuania?

Rare Cancers are treated in multidisciplinary university hospitals with all the necessary infrastructure and expertise. The population of Lithuania is 3 million people and there are few patients with rare cancers. For this reason, it is not reasonable to establish specialist units dedicated to rare cancers. Instead, rare cancers are treated by teams of specialists led by a medical oncologist specializing in a certain rare cancer type. There are however some important exceptions:

- Childhood cancers are treated in a dedicated unit of Oncohaematology Centre, Children's Hospital, Affiliate of Vilnius University Hospital Santariskiu Klinikos.
- Adult haematology cancers are treated in a dedicated Hematology unit of Hematology, Oncology and Transfusion Medicine Center, Vilnius University Hospital Santariskiu Klinikos.

The specialized cancer care services are concentrated in 6 health care institutions: National cancer institute (specialised cancer centre), Vilnius University hospital Santariskiu Klinikos, Lithuanian University of Health Sciences Kauno Klinikos, Klaipėda University Hospital, Republican Šiauliai hospital, Republican Panevėžys hospital (except radiation therapy) providing complex services of diagnostics and treatment of oncological diseases.

How have these hospitals been identified? Did you use any criteria?

These hospitals have licence to treat cancer patients. National cancer institute has OECI accreditation.