

## **Answers for Poland, provided by the Ministry of Health of Poland**

### **Which are the NCCP priorities with regards to rare cancers?**

No official NCCP exists for Poland – in the bottom-up cancer plan created by Polish oncologists and other experts states:

The treatment of patients with rare cancers (defined as those whose incidence rate does not exceed 3/100,000 population according to the criteria adopted by IRCI) in multidisciplinary centres of reference allows for better treatment outcomes to be achieved and is more economically efficient. There are over 180 known types of rare malignant tumours (the majority of these are soft tissue and bone sarcomas, neuroendocrine tumours, haematological cancers and some lymphomas). In Poland, there are 1,000 new cases of sarcoma diagnosed each year and these patients should be referred for treatment to five to six centres at most. These centres should also provide treatment for complicated clinical cases using innovative or experimental methods. This should decrease current problems of delayed diagnosis, difficulties in histopathological confirmation and inappropriate treatment in centres with limited expertise. At the same time, it should be ensured that the patient is referred to centres of excellence in the earliest possible stage of the disease. All haematological cancers meet the criteria for rare cancers while the haematology units meet the criteria for reference centres for these tumours.

### **How have the hospitals on the list been identified? Did you use any criteria?**

The hospitals have been identified based on personal knowledge.