

Answers for Bulgaria, provided by the National Cancer Registry Bulgaria

Which are the NCCP priorities with regards to rare cancers?

Bulgaria has strategic and legislative documents for the implementation of national policies on prevention, diagnostic, treatment and rehabilitation of cancer, rather than a document named a National Cancer Control Plan (i.e. the National Health Strategy 2008-2013 and the National Health Strategy 2014-2020; the Concept for Hospital Care Restructuring 2010, the latter was amended in 2014; the Healthcare Act; the Medical Establishments Act and the respective by-laws; the Medical Standard on Medical Oncology etc.).

In addition, prevention activities on three types of cancer (breast, cervical and colorectal) have been provided for implementation within the National Programme on Chronic Non-Communicable Diseases Prevention 2014-2020. These activities are going to be implemented on the basis of the cancer screening model introduced under the project “STOP and go for a check-up” (funded under the Operational Programme “Human Resources Development 2007-2013” and the ESF of the EU).

The above mentioned legislative documents consist of strict regulations concerning the diagnostic, treatment, dispensary and the drug therapy of the oncological diseases.

Where are rare cancer patients treated in Bulgaria?

Treatment of rare cancers takes place within structures, which are authorized to carry out activities for the diagnosis and treatment of cancer. Currently, it has been envisaged to launch a process for designation of centres for rare diseases, including cancer.

In Bulgaria there are cancer dedicated medical establishments. The Medical Establishments Act regulates the activity of the Complex Oncological Centers and Specialized Oncological Hospitals, where the activities for follow-up, diagnosis and treatment of cancer patients, as well as monitoring and consultations of cancer and precancerous patients are being implemented.

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

Legislative criteria have been laid down in the Medical Establishments Act. The latter regulates the activity of the Complex Oncological Centers and Specialized Oncological Hospitals.