Policy Scorecard for Algeria

In partnership with Policy Wisdom
Policy Scorecards©

The Policy Scorecards© have been developed by Policy Wisdom using its WiSE SCORECARD© methodology, with the support of Pfizer and the collaboration of the Global Colon Cancer Association.

Colorectal Cancer
Algeria

June 2023
Colorectal Cancer

Algeria
1. CRC is prioritized, and national programs/plans/policies are in place

MoH acknowledges the priority of CRC in the national cancer program/plan/strategy/policy and/or the need to establish a national CRC policy.

Evaluation mechanisms are established to monitor the implementation of the plan/program/strategy/policy.

National cancer registry is in place with data on burden of disease on CRC.

2. Health care budget allocated

Sustainable sources of funding address all programs and activities included in the national program/plan/strategy/policy for CRC.

3. Clinical practice guidelines are developed and updated

A commission/working group is established by the appropriate governing bodies/agencies to develop CRC clinical practice guidelines.

A transparent process is established to study the evidence and listen to stakeholders in the process of developing/updating CRC clinical guidelines.

Clinical practice guidelines are comprehensive and include state-of-art diagnostic testing, and innovative treatment.

4. Innovative technologies and medicines are promptly reimbursed

Screening and diagnostic tests are fully reimbursed according to CRC clinical practice guidelines.

HTA framework is suitable to support an equitable assessment for CRC treatments and complies with a timely multicriteria approach.

Treatments are fully reimbursed according to CRC clinical practice guidelines (or national formulary) without OOP cost for patient.

Innovative contracting models are implemented for innovative medicines for CRC.

There is no patient cost-sharing for access to healthcare services for CRC.

5. Timely and equitable access to comprehensive diagnosis is guaranteed

MoH actively executes CRC awareness programs.

MoH establishes and guarantees execution of population-wide screening program in alignment with the indications provided by the applicable Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPGs).

Legislative framework guarantees timely and equitable access to diagnosis after a positive screening result.

MoH discusses the need to guarantee implementation of biomarker testing into diagnostic clinical practice and focuses on current challenges like availability of trained specialists and continuous learning.

Innovative contracting models are implemented for innovative medicines for CRC.

6. Timely and equitable access to treatment is guaranteed

Legislative framework exists to guarantee timely initiation of treatment.

Legislative framework ensures continuity of treatment once started.

MoH ensures appropriate healthcare workforce, infrastructure and resources to manage CRC across the country.

MoH has set up processes/indicators to monitor and evaluate quality/effectiveness of access to treatment.

ADVANCES IN POLICY MAKING FOR COLORECTAL CANCER

**Algeria**

**Total Scoring** 27/48

**Percentage** 56

**Overall country progress** Modest

**Policy Scorecards for Colorectal Cancer** *

* Implementation not considered
The Cancer National Plan 2015-2019 included colorectal cancer screening in its objectives, the plan is in the process of being updated. The updated plan focuses mainly on prevention, but it has not been launched yet.

There is a national cancer registry, that covers the Center, East, and West regions of Algeria. Its focus is incidence.

In the last three years cancer funding has been prioritized as investment with the reactivation of the National Fund to Fight against Cancer in 2021, and the investment of the presidency in 2023 to the fight against cancer. The budget for cancer is not specifically defined in the last available version of the Cancer National Plan, and it is not specific for CRC.

The Ministry of Health (MoH) has released Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPG) for colorectal cancer as of 2022. However, the incorporation of state-of-the-art diagnostics in these guidelines and their comprehensiveness across all cancer stages it has not been verified.

All cancer care treatment costs in the public sector are covered by the Algerian State, but there are challenges in the reimbursement. Diagnostics and innovative cancer treatments are not fully reimbursed in Argelia and patients need to incur expenses to access them.

Algeria currently lacks a dedicated Health Technology Assessments (HTA) agency. Consequently, adherence to international regulations may result in restricted access to life-saving therapies, as approval is contingent on alignment with the demographics and needs of another region.

The MoH is promoting awareness of cancer screening with their annually organized Cancer Information Fair (SICAN), and pilot screening programs for CRC have been executed. However, there are still gaps and a need for recommendations and/or guidelines for oriented screening.

There are currently limited resources (legislative and financial) to guarantee timely and equitable access to diagnosis after a positive screening result, timely initiation of treatment, and continuity of treatment once started. The temporary authorization of use (ATU) procedure has improved product availability by reducing registration file processing times, however, there are still challenges associated with timely access to treatment.

The establishment of the National Commission for the Fight against Cancer in 2021, coupled with its funding by the presidency in 2023, emphasizes the nation’s commitment to combating cancer and its determination to address prevailing challenges in the country's cancer care.
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