

# Belgian eHandbook – Professional involvement – Psychological support

STATUS

Ongoing

LAST  
UPDATE

March 2025

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## BACKGROUND

More people are surviving cancer thanks to better treatments. In Belgium, there were 474,411 people alive at the end of 2022 who had received a cancer diagnosis between 2013 and 2022. This higher number of survivors leads to an increase of patients requiring psychological support. With the eHandbook we want to include this important topic and we aim to ensure easier access to the correct information for by developing an innovative tool that provides a reliable and up-to-date overview of providers and services offering supportive care for (hemato-)oncological patients in Belgium.

## DOCUMENTATION

Webpage:

<https://www.sciensano.be/en/projects/belgian-handbook-oncological-supportive-care-beoncosup>

Sharepoint:

[https://collaboration.sciensano.be/sites/E1382/beoncosup/\\_layouts/15/start.aspx](https://collaboration.sciensano.be/sites/E1382/beoncosup/_layouts/15/start.aspx)

## OBJECTIVES

- Developing a list of (onco/neuro-)psychologists in Belgium and defining the inclusion criteria
- Developing a list of (onco)sexologists in Belgium and defining the inclusion criteria
- Discussing the format and content of future collaboration

## PROCESS

### Phase 1: Developing the structure and preliminary content

(2023 - 2025)

Needs-based working group session 22-09-2023 :

- First mapping of initiatives and relevant stakeholders for the psychological support chapter

### Phase 2: Developing the content (november 2023 – may 2025)

- Mapping (onco/neuro-)psychologists and (onco)sexologists, services and institutions which patients can be referred to
- Mapping tools and guidelines for professionals and patients
- Identify gaps in the supportive care related to psychological needs

### Phase 3: Filling in and testing the eHandbook (2025 - continuous)

The goal of this phase is to finetune the content together with the professional working group and to ensure that the content is accessible and ready to use for (healthcare) professionals.

- Simulation of the eHandbook with (healthcare) professionals

## OUTCOMES AND IMPACT

### Preliminary results

- Lack of existing lists of (onco/neuro-)psychologists and (onco)sexologists
- Lack of general framework for long term psychological support
- Lack of guidance for psychological support

### Potential impact

- Improvement of referral to a list of (onco/neuro-)psychologists, (onco)sexologists
- Increased awareness on the needs that can be met by (onco/neuro)psychologists, (onco)sexologists