

Belgian eHandbook – Professional involvement – Return-to-work

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 who return back to the workforce after their treatment. With the eHandbook we want to include this important topic and we aim to ensure easier access to the correct information 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

OBJECTIVES

- Develop and update the content of the eHandbook in collaboration with experts in return-to-work (RTW)
- Ensure accessibility of information for (health care) professionals
- Create a national network of professionals for future collaborations within the eHandbook and beyond

PROCESS

Phase 1: Developing the structure and preliminary content (2023 - 2024)

Needs-based working group session 17-11-2023

- First mapping of initiatives and relevant stakeholders for the RTW chapter

Phase 2: Developing the content (November 2023 – May 2025)

- Mapping professionals, services and institutions which patients can be referred to
- Mapping tools and guidelines for professionals and patients

Phase 3: Filling in and testing the eHandbook (Continuous)

The goal of this phase is to validate the content together with experts and to ensure that the content is accessible and ready to use for professionals.

- Simulation of the eHandbook with professionals on 14-05-2025
- Meeting with a group of experts on 21-05-2025

OUTCOMES AND IMPACT

Preliminary results

- Information about the legislation and the initiatives for RTW is not basic knowledge among (healthcare) professionals
- There is a lot of legislation underlying the rights and obligations of patients and employers. It is difficult for providers to keep their knowledge up to date and correctly inform patients
- The eHandbook should provide links to existing (up-to-date) sources of information
- Identification of the gaps in the supportive care (related to RTW)

Potential impact

- Improvement of referral to adequate counseling and supportive care
- Facilitate the return to work for cancer patients (survivors)
- Support and reassure patients about their rights and obligations