## **OECI** Accreditation (Organization of European Cancer Institutes)

In April 2021, the Institute of Oncology in order to maintain and upgrade its position as a leading institution in the field of oncology in Slovenia and to maintain its place among the leading oncology centers in Europe, the Centre joined the European accreditation in the field of oncology in accordance with the OECI quality standards, awarded by the recognized European organization of oncology institutes (OECI). The aim of implementing the OECI quality standards and accreditation is to encourage OIs to continuously improve and maintain the quality of the whole organization, including leadership and management and the integration of oncology care, research and education activities.

The accreditation procedure is based on the OECI quality standards, which are set out in the Manual OECI Quality Standards. The standards describe the criteria for the organization of oncology of the organization of cancer care, research, education and patient-centered care. It includes 85 standards; each standard has several sub-standards and questions that address specific elements of the standard:

- Governance of the Institute of Oncology;
- Organization of the quality system;
- Patient involvement and empowerment;
- Multidisciplinarity;
- Prevention and early detection;
- Diagnostics;
- Treatment;
- Research;
- Education and training.

In November 2021, within the framework of the European Oncology Accreditation according to the OECI standards, an external audit was performed. The auditors in accordance with the audit plan reviewed and scored the quality standard topics and commented on them based on the assessment. They pointed out strengths and some opportunities for improvement. On the basis of the report, OIL has prepared an action plan for improvements in the framework of PDCA (PLAN- DO -CHECK-ACT) cycle in the aspects of the standards where non-conformities or opportunities for improvement were identified.

The external auditors pointed the strengths of the Institute of Oncology within the OECI quality standards:

- Data protection;
- Cancer registry;
- Inpatient nutrition;
- Prevention and screening;
- Pathology and facilities for molecular pathology;



- Palliative care team;
- Education and training.

The following opportunities for improvement were identified in accordance with the OECI quality standards:

- Strategic plan/department contribution;
- Patient involvement;
- ICT;
- Quality management;
- MDTs;
- Nursing empowerment;
- Including supportive care with structural screening into pathways;
- Research.
- Administration of anti-cancer drugs.

Improvement action plans have been prepared in the frame of improvement opportunities including three opportunities in specific crucial operational domains of the OI (Nursing empowerment, Staff shortages, Increase the available space capacity).

In June 2022, the OECI Accreditation Board approved the improvement action plans and designated OI as the Cancer Centre (CC). In accordance with the approval of the action plan, in 2022, OI was certified and designated as an OECI Cancer Canter (CC) for a period of five years.



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