



Policy Development for Universal Health Coverage in Cancer & Palliative Care: Lessons from Zambia

Access to Medicines Panel Discussion

Dr. Francis Bwalya

Ministry of Health, Zambia

1 February, 2020
Ecumenical Centre in Geneva

Outline

- Introduction
- Objective
- Current Status
- Conclusion
- Acknowledgement





Introduction

- Zambia, has an estimated 136.2 per 100,000 age-standardized incidence rate for all cancers (Globocan 2018)
- About 12,052 new cases of cancer per year.
- Cervical cancer remains the most common cancer in Zambia with an estimated 3,000 cases annually
- Most patients present late, hence the need to improve & integrate cancer screening & PC
- We are committed to achieving universal health coverage across all spectra of health care including PC.

Introduction Cont.

- Zambia with an estimated 17m people consumes 9kg of oral morphine annually.
- This is far too low to cater for the people that are in need of pain relief.
- The other opioid drugs are in short supply too.
- The low consumption is due to among other factors poor opioid prescription practices



Introduction Cont.

- Myths about morphine persist
- Very low numbers of Healthcare workers educated in pain management and palliative care
- Low advocacy for essential palliative care drugs
- To mitigate against these the NPCSP has been developed to aid the integration of PC into all levels of Healthcare encompassing the whole government approach policy



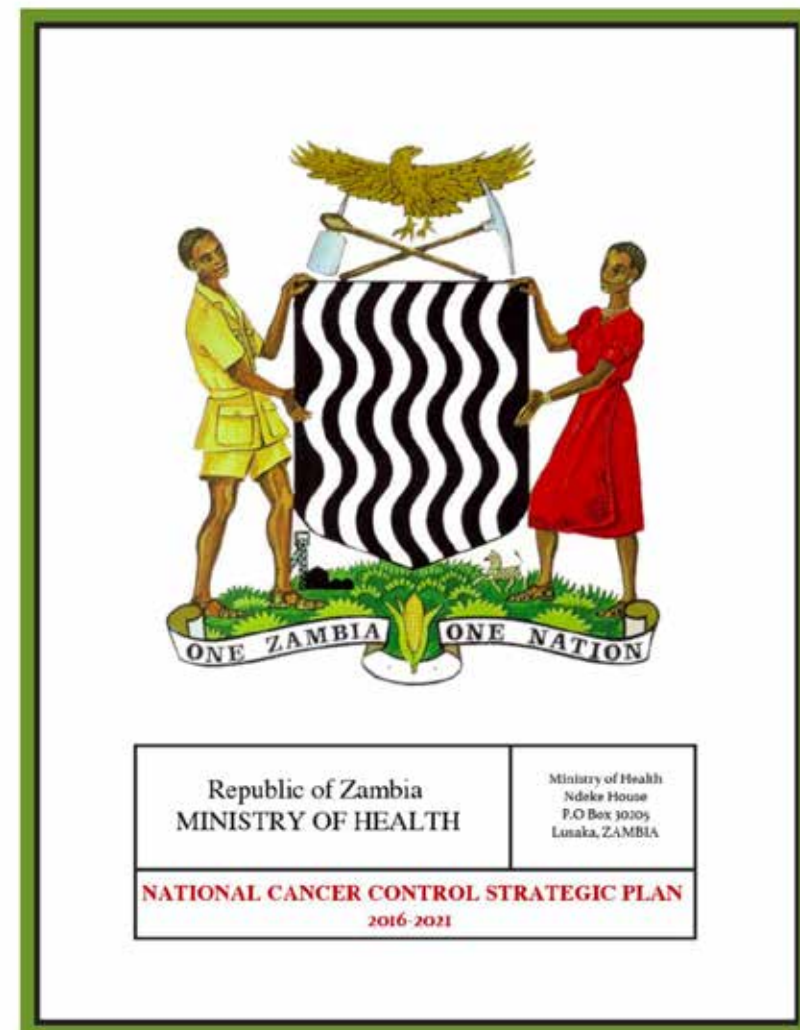


Objective

Delivering quality health services across the continuum of care which includes promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative care provided as close to the family settings as possible.

Current Status

- National Cancer Control Strategic Plan (2016-2021)
- Prioritises 4 cancers & PC
 - Cervical cancer
 - Prostate cancer
 - Breast cancers
 - Retinoblastoma
- Palliative Care
 - Develop an effective PC service at all levels of the health care system;
 - Complete and implement the NPCSP

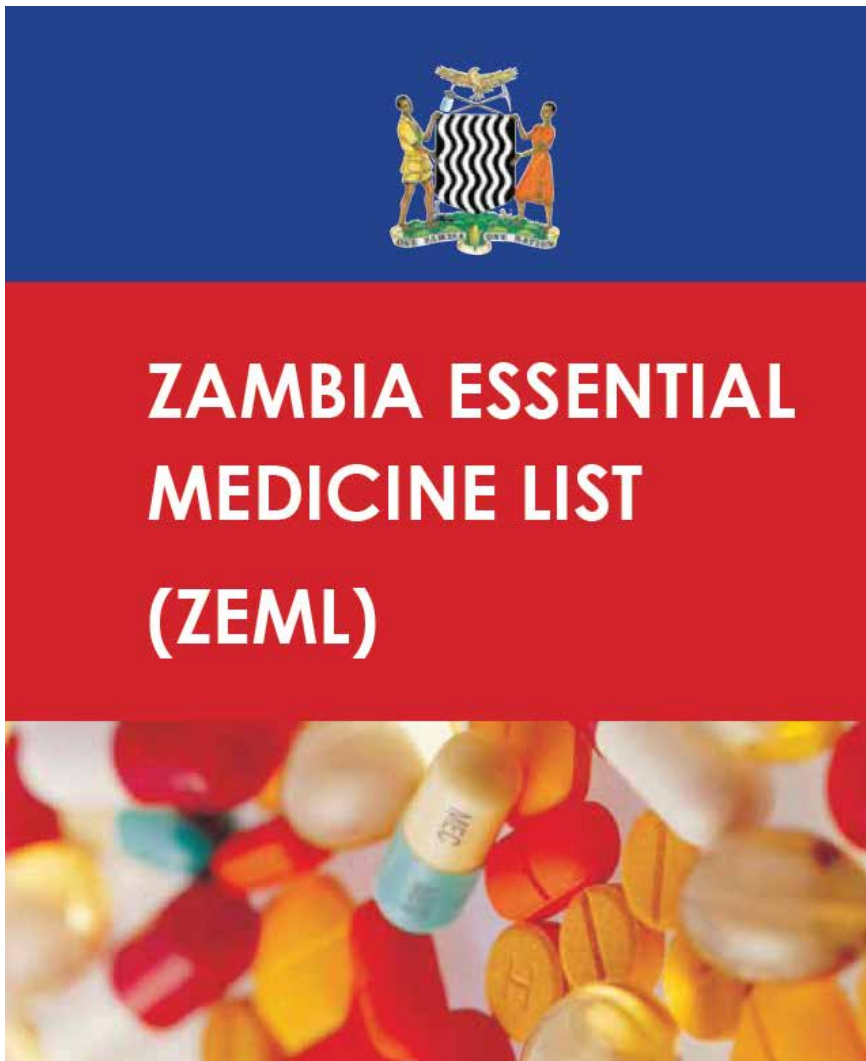


Current Status Cont.

- The first draft of the National Palliative Care Strategic Framework (NPCSF) was developed
- Final draft to be actualized by the National Cancer Control Strategic Plan
- Final draft to be launched in October 2020



Current Status Cont.



- Keeps updating the essential medicine list to the population needs
- Procurement is through the Medical Stores Limited (Zambia Medicines Agency)
- Regulation through Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA)

Examples Analgesics

1.0 Non-opioid analgesics

- Acetyl salicylic acid (aspirin)
- Paracetamol
- NSAIDS

2.0 Opioid analgesics

- Dihydrocodeine
- Morphine sulphate
- Pethidine

Current Status Cont.

Procurement & Regulation of Essential Medicines



MSL
Medical Stores Ltd

HOME ABOUT US CORE SERVICES KEY DOCUMENTS NEWS FAQ CONTACT US

QUALITY

Quality Control on medicines is performed in coordination with the Zambia Medicine Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA) and the Zambia Bureau of Standards (ZABS)

[MORE DETAILS >](#)

WHAT WE DO
PROCURE, STORE AND DISTRIBUTE ESSENTIAL MEDICINES.

Medical Stores Limited (MSL) is an autonomous government agency established under the companies act with the express objective of furnishing to the nation good quality drugs and various medical equipment and supplies.



Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority
(Formerly: Pharmaceutical Regulatory Authority)

"Regulating Medicines for Public Health Protection"

HOME ABOUT US GUIDELINES FORMS REGISTERS MEDIA CENTRE COMMITTEES FAQs CONTACT US

Home > Zambia News > ZAMRA OPENS EASTERN REGIONAL OFFICE IN CHIPATA



MARKETING AUTHORISATION PRODUCT CATEGORIES

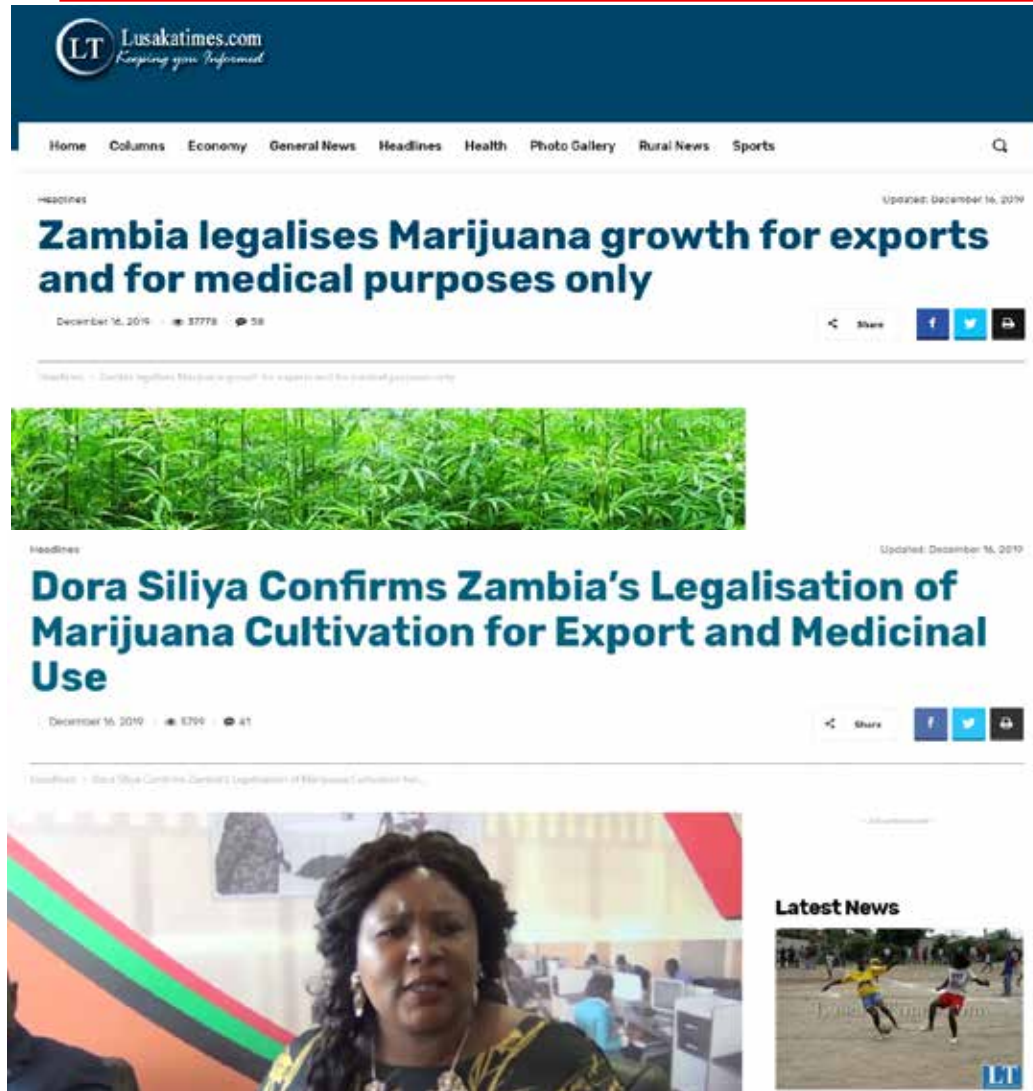
Report an Issue
Report adverse pharmaceutical products and medicines reaction to us.

[Report Online >>](#)

OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

Zambia Medicines Regulat...
8,206 likes

Current Status Cont.



The screenshot shows the Lusaka Times website with the following content:

- Article 1:** "Zambia legalises Marijuana growth for exports and for medical purposes only". Updated: December 16, 2019. 17778 views, 38 shares.
- Article 2:** "Dora Siliya Confirms Zambia's Legalisation of Marijuana Cultivation for Export and Medicinal Use". Updated: December 16, 2019. 8799 views, 41 shares.
- Image 1:** A field of green marijuana plants.
- Image 2:** A woman, Dora Siliya, speaking at a podium.
- Image 3:** A group of people playing soccer on a field.

- Cabinet on 4th December 2019 gave approval for processing and exporting of cannabis for medicinal purposes.
- MOH to provide overall leadership and coordinate the issuance of licenses for the cultivation, processing and export of cannabis for medicinal purposes under the Dangerous Drugs, CAP. 95

Current Status Cont.

- Cancer Diseases Hospital opened in July 2007 with support of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
- In 2016, opened Phase 2 with 252 bed capacity
- About 20,000 patients have been treated
- PC is recognized as a specialty & has funded positions for MOs & nurses
- Provides specialist training in radiation oncology

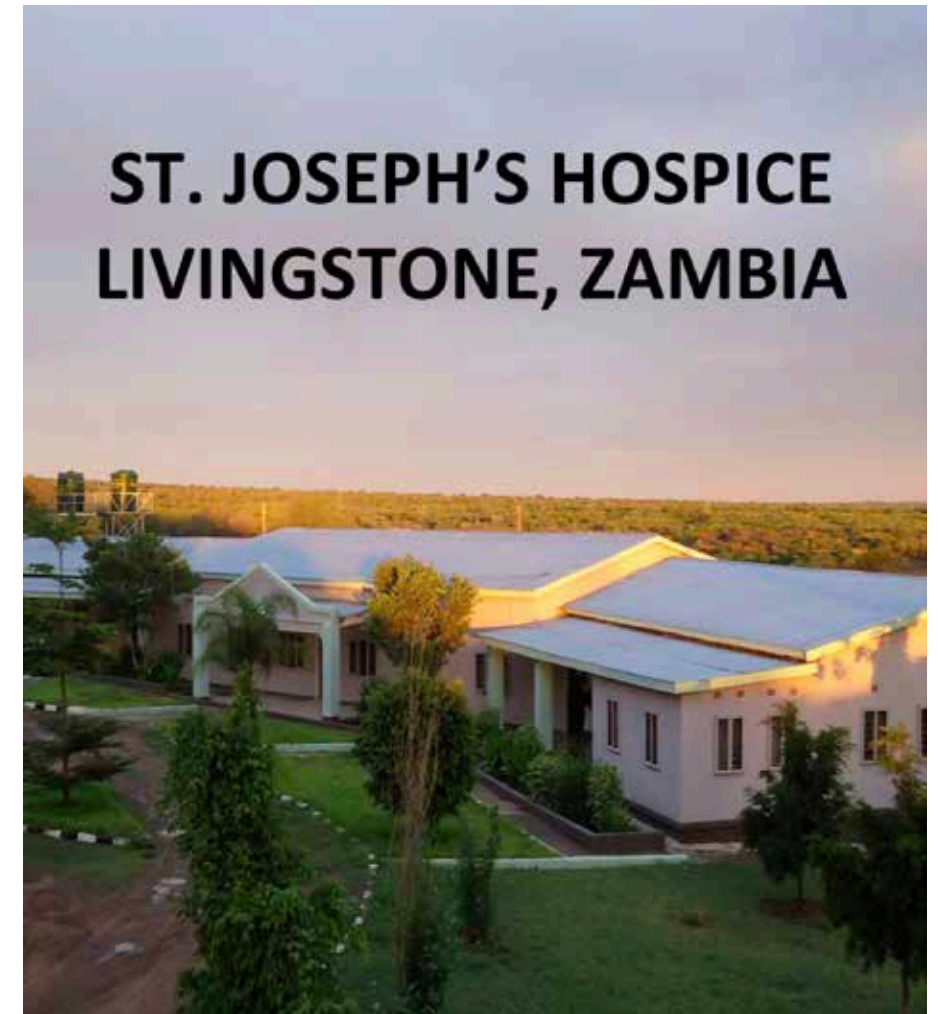




 **CANCER DISEASES HOSPITAL**

Current Status Cont.

- Hospices were saved from closure as a result of inadequate funding from international donors
- MOH provided direct funding to support hospices and placed medical personnel on government payroll to provide care



Current Status Cont.

- Creation of funded PC specialist positions for medical doctors & nurses
- Some hospitals integrated PC within their establishments
- Some health care workers were trained from Kenya, UK, SA & Uganda
- Shared our experience at local & international conferences



Current Status Cont.

National Health Insurance [No. 2 of 2018 61]

**THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE ACT
2018**

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

**PART I
PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS**

1. Short title and Commencement
2. Interpretation
3. Application and power of exemption

**PART II
THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY**

4. Establishment of National Health Insurance Management Authority
5. Functions of Authority
6. Board of Authority
7. Functions of Board
8. Committees
9. Delegation of functions
10. Director-General and other staff of Authority
11. Provincial and district offices of Authority

**PART III
NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEME, COVERAGE AND BENEFITS**

12. Establishment of National Health Insurance Scheme
13. Membership and registration
14. Possession of health insurance by foreigners
15. Contributions and payment mechanisms
16. Persons exempt from contributions
17. Standard unit cost
18. Negotiated fees, charges and payment mechanisms
19. Scheme membership card
20. Benefits of member's contribution
21. Death of member
22. Suspension of benefits
23. Information on change of membership status
24. Portability
25. Material modifications

- Zambia remain committed to UHC
- We signed into law the National Health Insurance Act in 2018
- To start February 1, 2020

Current Status Cont.



Republic of Zambia

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

2019 National Cancer & Palliative Care Conference

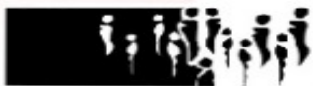
THEME: "UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE: CANCER & PALLIATIVE CARE FOR ALL"

8th - 9th August, 2019

Venue: NIPA Conference Centre, Lusaka Zambia



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



CIDRZ

for a healthy Zambia



JSI
John Snow, Inc.
Partnering & Empowering Health

Right to care
Treating Health Seriously

EQUIP
Innovation for Health



jhpiego
Saving lives, improving health.
Transforming futures.



UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND



HOPE
Cervical & Breast Cancer Initiative



CONCLUSION

- Strong government commitment and institutional frameworks and policies that support essential medicines, cancer control & PC integration are key
- It is possible to integrate PC & cancer services within the existing govt health systems

Acknowledgements

