

PHILIPPINE PATIENT NAVIGATION NETWORK

1. Background and Rationale

The institutionalization of patient navigation in Republic Act No. 11215 or the National Integrated Cancer Control Act (NICCA) has led to its increasing prominence in the healthcare landscape—particularly in cancer care. There is now a growing need to standardize practice, establish professional identity, and share best practices across settings. The new initiative to establish unified *Patient Navigation Competencies and Standards* serves as a foundation for this effort, but sustaining quality implementation requires continued collaboration, mentorship, and learning across institutions and service areas.

To this end, we propose the establishment of a **Philippine Patient Navigation Network** as a **National Community of Practice** for navigators, program managers and coordinators, trainers, researchers, and advocates. This network will foster camaraderie, shared learning, professional development, and practice alignment across diverse healthcare settings.

2. Objectives of the Network

The Patient Navigation Network shall aim to:

- 2.1** Serve as a platform for shared learning, knowledge exchange, and problem-solving among navigators and stakeholders
- 2.2** Support professional development through peer support, mentorship, and learning opportunities
- 2.3** Promote evidence-informed practice, including research and knowledge dissemination
- 2.4** Establish a collective voice for navigators in advocacy, policy development, and health systems planning
- 2.5** Encourage innovations in navigation models, community engagement, and culturally relevant care

3. Proposed Membership

Membership will be open to:

- Patient navigators across all care settings (hospital, community, palliative, cancer, etc.)
- Program managers and coordinators
- Institutional navigation leads
- Trainers and educators
- Policy advocates and DOH representatives
- Civil society partners, NGOs, and academic institutions
- Researchers and evaluators working on navigation and cancer/palliative care access

4. Initial Activities

Upon establishment, the network will:

- 4.1** Develop a governance structure
- 4.2** Create a directory of members and organizations involved in navigation
- 4.3** Identify key priorities for the network
- 4.4** Organize and implement regular learning activities, case conferences, or webinars
- 4.5** Develop a shared resource hub or directory
- 4.6** Provide peer feedback and support
- 4.7** Collaborate with existing programs and government initiatives focusing on navigation and patient's equitable access to care

5. Coordination and Secretariat

In its initial phase, the network shall be convened under the guidance of the DOH-ARMMC-PCS project team and a steering group composed of early champions to patient navigation. A temporary secretariat shall be formed from the same or from the established governance structure of the patient navigators. Philippine Cancer Society and other champions of patient navigation shall take turns in housing and being the headquarters of the Philippine Patient Navigation Network and its secretariat.