

World CML Day: DOH, CML Alliance of the Philippines, Novartis celebrate two decades of medical innovation, new access program for CML patients

Sep 22, 2021

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- Touched By Max, Inc. is privileged to partner with the Department of Health and Novartis Healthcare Philippines in celebrating World CML Day, with the theme '20 years of life-changing therapies, but worldwide access is still needed'.
- CML Alliance of the Philippines, Novartis thank the DOH for launching the Cancer, Supportive Care, and Palliative Care Medicine Access Program (CSPMAP) in 26 government hospitals.

September 22, 2021 – The 2020 Globocan report showed that leukemia is the fifth leading cause of cancer-related death in the Philippines and the 9th most common cancer type with more than 5,700 new cases in 2020.⁽¹⁾ Advances in treatment and care have transformed chronic myeloid leukemia (CML) into a disease where patients, if treated effectively, have the chance to live a normal and long life.

"Touched By Max, Inc. is privileged to partner with the Department of Health and Novartis Healthcare Philippines in celebrating World CML Day, with the theme '20 years of life-changing therapies, but worldwide access is still needed'. We thank the DOH for launching the Cancer, Supportive Care, and Palliative Care Medicine Access Program (CSPMAP) in 26 government hospitals," said Rod Padua, President of Touched By Max, Inc.

"On behalf of our CEO, Pat Garcia-Gonzalez, I would like to say that it is a big honor for The Max Foundation to partner with DOH and Novartis in enhancing treatment access for CML patients in the country," said Nelia Medina, Program Officer of The Max Foundation.

Dr. Clarito Cairo, Medical Officer IV and Program Manager of the National Integrated Cancer Control Program, Cancer Control Division, Disease Prevention and Control Bureau, DOH, also highlighted the financial support the CSPMAP will receive. "The Cancer and Supportive-Palliative Medicines Access Program (CSPMAP) shall be fully funded by the Cancer Assistance Fund (CAF). It aims to provide free medicines for the identified priority set of cancer types that are not yet fully covered by PhilHealth and to minimize or eliminate out-of-pocket costs among the target population."

"Novartis is deeply committed to transforming the lives of people living with blood cancers and life-threatening blood disorders. We believe that anyone living with these conditions has the right to a life free from pain, free from symptoms, and free from disease – this is our vision for the future," said Joel Chong, General Manager for Novartis Oncology.

In line with the treatment support provision of the newly enacted National Integrated Cancer Control Act (NICCA) of 2019, the DOH CSPMAP will be implemented in the following government hospitals across the country:

Hospital	City / Region
Amang Rodriguez Medical Center	Marikina City, Metro Manila
East Avenue Medical Center	Quezon City, Metro Manila
Jose R. Reyes Memorial Medical Center	City of Manila, Metro Manila
Rizal Medical Center	Pasig City, Metro Manila
Philippine General Hospital	City of Manila, Metro Manila
National Kidney and Transplant Institute	Quezon City, Metro Manila
Philippine Children's' Medical Center	Quezon City, Metro Manila
National Children's Hospital	Quezon City, Metro Manila
Region I Medical Center	Dagupan, Pangasinan
Ilocos Training and Regional Hospital	San Fernando, La Union
Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital	Batac, Ilocos Norte
Cagayan Valley Medical Center	Tuguegarao, Cagayan
Dr. Jose B. Lingad Memorial Hospital	San Fernando, Pampanga
Bataan General Hospital and Medical Center	Balanga City, Bataan
Batangas Medical Center	Batangas City, Batangas
Bicol Regional Teaching and Training Hospital	Legaspi City, Albay
Bicol Medical Center	Naga City, Camarines Sur
Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center	Baguio City, Benguet

Western Visayas Medical Center	Iloilo City, Iloilo
Corazon Lacson Montelibano Memorial	Bacolod City, Negros Occidental
Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center	Cebu City, Cebu
Zamboanga City Medical Center	Zamboanga del sur, Zamboanga
Northern Mindanao Medical Center	Cagayan De Oro, Misamis Oriental
Davao Regional Medical Center	Tagum City, Davao Del Norte
Southern Philippines Medical Center	Davao City, Davao del Sur
Cotabato Regional and Medical Center	Cotabato City, Maguindanao

More than 110 attendees of the World CML Day virtual event were provided with tips and guidance on how to further navigate COVID-19 and protect patients from exposure to the virus. A 45-minute session gave patients the opportunity to ask questions from guest doctors.

“When CML is kept at bay and kept dormant, medication can be discontinued. That’s why we need to be aggressive in monitoring the disease. When detected and managed early, we can control the progression of CML,” emphasized Dr. Rico Tee, Consultant Internist – Hematologist at the Philippine General Hospital.

“On behalf of Novartis, we thank The Max Foundation, Touched by Max and the CML Alliance of the Philippines for organizing this webinar awareness that comprehensively discussed the whole patient journey – from awareness, treatment to access. We share your vision of equitable access to medicine and a future free of blood cancer and other life-threatening diseases,” said Christine Fajardo, Patient Engagement Head of Novartis.



Rod Padua, President of Touched By Max, Inc.



Pat Garcia – Gonzalez, Co-founder of The Max Foundation



Rico Paolo Gomez Tee, M.D., FPCP, DPSHBT, DPCHTM, Internist-Hematologist at the Manila Medical Center and several hospital affiliations



Clarito Urbina Cairo, Jr., MD, FPSVI, FPCOM, Program Manager of the National Integrated Cancer Control Program, Cancer Control Division, Disease Prevention and Control Bureau, Department of Health



Joel Chong, Oncology General Manager of Novartis Healthcare Philippines



Christine Fajardo, Head of Patient Engagement, Novartis Philippines



Nelia Medina, Program Officer of The Max Foundation

About Novartis

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