



# UICC Master Course - Access to Essential Cancer Medicines

## Course description

The purpose of this course is to review the landscape and challenges of essential cancer medicine access especially in developing countries and delve into methodology for evaluating medicine availability and approaches to ensuring availability and mitigating drug stock-outs.

## Course learning objectives

At the end of this course, participants will be able to:

1. Describe the current landscape of essential cancer medicine access and identify challenges related to cancer medicine access globally, with a focus on developing countries
2. Examine measures and definitions of cancer medicines access and its impact on clinical health outcomes
3. Report on potential solutions to mitigating cancer therapy access
4. Provide a holistic evaluation of cancer medicine access, including factors unrelated to drug price, by examination of external health system and patient factors related to access.

## Target audience

Providers who prescribe and administer chemotherapy and agencies involved in formulation, procurement and supply of national essential medicines for cancer treatment in developing countries.

Participants are expected to have some level of work experience and knowledge of health systems and health financing.

This course will be delivered exclusively in English.

## Online course format

- Module one: The importance of ensuring access to essential medicines – general overview of the issue
- Module two: Barriers to essential cancer medicines access (including unique barriers for cancer medicines)
- Module three: Access beyond price and potential solutions for promoting access

## About the course faculty

Yehoda Martei, Assistant Professor of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania

Shalini Jayasekar-Zürn, Senior Advocacy Manager, UICC

	Learning Activities	No. of Learning Activities	Estimated Time
<b>M&amp;E</b>	Entry Survey (template created by UICC)	1	0h 05m
<b>Module 1</b> The importance of ensuring access to essential medicines – general overview of the issue	<u>Webinars/Presentations</u> - Ensuring access to essential medicines as a part of Universal Health coverage - Introduction to the evaluation of essential medicines access, with a focus on access in LMICs	2x45	1h30m
	Quiz (5 basic concept questions) Short answer questions : Describe your country's progress towards UHC.  Does your country have a national essential medicines list (NEML) ? Which WHO cancer EML are currently listed on your NEML ?	1	30m
<b>Module 2</b> Barriers to essential cancer medicines access (including unique barriers for cancer medicines)	<u>Webinars/Presentations</u> - Discussion on the pricing of cancer medicines - An overview of procurement and supply chain of cancer medicines	2x45	1h30m
	Assignments – Describe specific pricing barriers in your country setting and describe hypothetical or observed impact on cancer care delivery. How does your country procure /reimburse cancer medicines and identify actions or investments your country should be making in this area?		1h

	Learning Activities	No. of Learning Activities	Estimated Time
<b>Module 3</b> Access beyond price and potential solutions for promoting access	<u>Webinars/Presentations</u> - Biosimilars and their role in ensuring access to treatment - The Medicines Patent Pool and their model in increasing access to patented medicines	2x30	1h
	Assignments (Identify one barrier in access to cancer medicines in your country and identify possible solutions)		2h
	<b>Total time for Module 3</b>		
<b>Module 4</b>	Special Session on Supply chain of essential cancer medicines during the COVID-19 pandemic	30 mins	30 mins
	Exit Survey (template created by UICC)		0h 10m

#### Suggested Reading

- The Lancet Commission- Essential medicines for universal health coverage: [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(16\)31599-9/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(16)31599-9/fulltext)
- The WHO cancer medicines pricing report: <https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/277190>