

World Health Organization (WHO) and Wilms Cancer Foundation (WCF) Enhance Capacity for Wilms Tumour Care under the Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer

GENEVA, Switzerland, September 2, 2025.

The WHO and WCF announced a new partnership agreement in support of international pediatric cancer efforts through the Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer (GICC).

The Initiative, established in 2018, brings together stakeholders from around the world and across multiple sectors with the joint goal of increasing the survival rate of children with cancer globally to at least 60% by 2030 while reducing their suffering and improving their quality of life. WHO and its partners are working to achieve this goal by increasing countries' capacity to provide quality services for children with cancer, and by increasing the prioritization of childhood cancer at global, regional and national levels. To date support has been provided to more than 80 countries.

Through the GICC the WHO and WCF aim to improve the quality of life and reduce the mortality rates, of children diagnosed with pediatric renal (kidney) cancer, specifically Wilms tumor (nephroblastoma). The fourth (4th) most common childhood cancer overall, Wilms tumor has been identified by the WHO as one of the six (6) targeted pediatric cancers within the GICC framework. It remains one of the most treatable diseases if diagnosed early providing a significant opportunity to make a demonstrable impact across multiple territories.

Roberta Ortiz (Medical Officer, Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer) commented: *“This new collaboration with the Wilms Cancer Foundation strengthens our ability to advance the objectives of the Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer. By enhancing the capacity of multidisciplinary teams caring for children with Wilms tumour, and by leveraging the Foundation’s expertise, particularly amplifying the voices of those with lived experience we are reinforcing more responsive, patient-centered approaches that improve outcomes for children and families.”*

The WCF is the only international charitable organization that supports and represents the needs of children, families and healthcare organizations affected by Wilms tumor. Its mission is to establish an international program of awareness, education, advocacy, early detection and treatment to tackle the spread of the disease.

TJ Hodgkinson (CEO, WCF) commented: *“As part of the UN/ WHO’s Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer (GICC) we have been asked to represent the needs of all those affected by Pediatric Renal Cancer and I believe we have a real opportunity, through our collective commitment to the GICC and alignment of expertise and services, to affect real and lasting change.”*

The WHO and WCF have already begun working on the delivery of multiple programs designed to relieve the burden faced by children, families and healthcare professionals tackling the disease on a daily basis as well as raising awareness of Wilms tumor in order to increase early detection and, in so doing, reduce mortality rates.

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