

Breast Cancer Programs in Eurasia



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Working across Eurasia

CHALLENGE: Develop an approach to address common healthcare problems throughout an enormous region.

PRO	CON
Shared history with Post Soviet healthcare system	Enormous geographic area from east to west
Common language (Russian) shared by a highly literate population	Different economies with different financial capacities (some highly developed, others undeveloped)

RPX Approach

Target a specific healthcare issue (e.g. breast cancer treatment) and work with locals to simultaneously develop relevant capacities at 3 different levels:

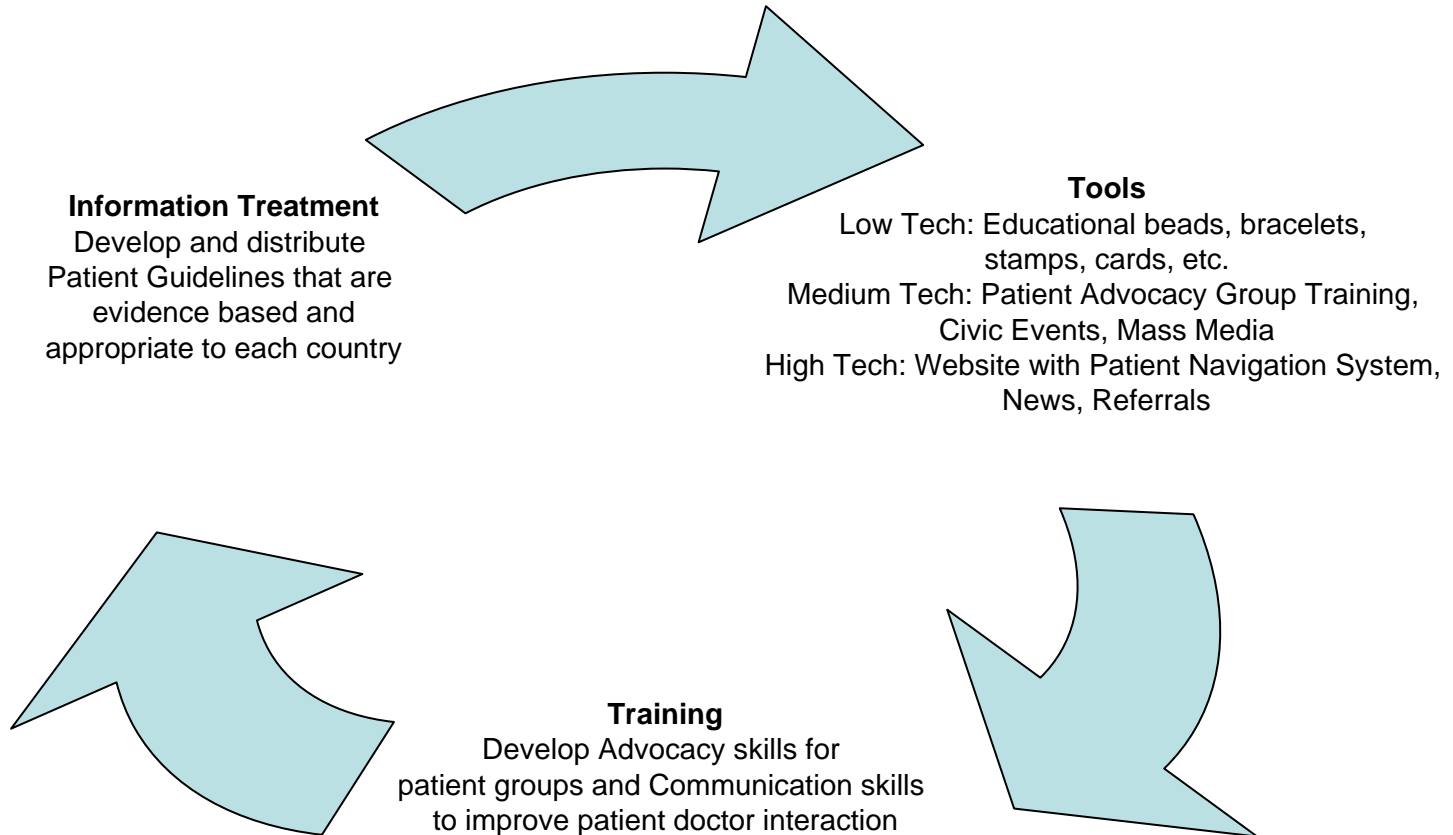
- 1. Policy Level** (Elected Representatives, Ministry of Health, high level technical experts)
 - Formulate rules & guidelines using evidence based information, cultural knowledge and local contacts
- 2. Service Delivery Level** (Hospitals, doctors, nurses)
 - Guideline training and implementation, deliver resources (medicine) to address needs and provide incentive
- 3. Grassroots Level** (Community groups, NGOs, general public)
 - Advocacy training, public education, conferences, public events

Secrets to Success at all Levels:

- Promote respect for Evidence Based Information
- Deliver resources (GIK) to accompany training
- Leverage contacts and diaspora to gain influence
- Understand and work within existing system (e.g. post-Soviet) and culture
- Understand the failures and local perceptions of the efforts made by other development groups and corporations

RPX Capacity Building Process

Provide information treatment, tools and training to local leaders and organizations (example shown for NGO capacity building)



Case Study of RPX Approach: Breast Cancer Early Detection and Advocacy Program Belarus vs. Kyrgyzstan

Program Objective: Raise breast cancer awareness by providing evidence based information and developing local capacities at the policy, service delivery and grassroots levels. RPX uses Breast Health Global Initiative guidelines in Belarus and Kyrgyz programs

Results Summary: RPX's approach of addressing the specific healthcare objective at 3 different levels has proven successful in both Belarus and Kyrgyzstan, despite their very diverse cultures and economic conditions,

- Rapid advancements at policy and grassroots level
- Service delivery level continues to struggle with limited resources (lack of medicines/money for treatments)
 - Progress improves with delivery of GIK medicines



Belarus

- Belarus is upper middle income country, 10 mln population
- Breast cancer incidence rate is 70.3 per 100,000
- Breast Cancer the death rate is 23.7per 100,000
- Belarus was affected by Chernobyl 23 years ago and has contaminated by radiation zone (1/4 of territory with Strontium, Cesium and Plutonium)
- Belarus has preserved Soviet health care system with elements of private health care services
 - Universal health care coverage (basic level)
 - National cancer registry
 - Specialized breast cancer departments in 6 regions
- Belarus has not identified breast cancer as a priority disease
 - Does not have mammography screening

Breast Cancer Early Detection and Advocacy Program (RPX in Belarus, 2001- current)

- Developed Standard Operational Procedures for clinical breast examinations and trained gynecologists to perform standardized CBE
- Developed Standard Operational Procedures for FNA
- Developed capacity of local women's non governmental groups in breast cancer awareness campaign organization, breast cancer education, information management, grant management,
- Provided evidence based translated materials for doctors and patients, policy makers
- Developed local website to for women advocates
- Coordinated exchange visits for doctors and policy makers to US universities and conferences
- Spearheaded advocacy campaign for national mammography screening (currently working with parliament, politicians and women grassroots groups)

Delivering laptops with advocacy training has activated women's group leaders to petition for changes in breast cancer treatment policy in Belarus



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Kyrgyzstan

- Kyrgyzstan is low income country, 5 mln population
- Breast cancer incidence rate is 9 per 100,000 women per year in all country, in capital is 22 per 100,000 per 100,000
- Breast cancer the death rate is 8.5 per 100,000
- Kyrgyzstan has a high tuberculosis rate (121 per 100,000) with high rate of multi resistant tuberculosis (13.4% among all new TB cases) and maternal mortality rate (109.7 per 100,000). These are national priorities
- Kyrgyzstan has a health care reform and has Mandatory Health Insurance Fund, which covers very basic level of care with co-payments.
 - Cancer services are not covered by health insurance fund and treatment often is not affordable and available.
- Kyrgyzstan does not have breast cancer as a priority disease and does not have mammography screening

Breast Cancer Early Detection and Advocacy Program (RPX in Kyrgyzstan, 2007- current)

- Education of family doctors education in Clinical Breast Examination Standardized Procedures
- Mobile mammography and ultrasound project - started nationwide early detection program
- Coordinated regional conference for policy makers, healthcare providers and activists
- Engaged local women groups to research and address myths about breast cancer
- Developed women's groups skills in advocacy, information provision, patient education
- Coordinated US exchange visits for local specialists

Advocacy training coupled with public events have raised awareness for women's health in Kyrgyzstan



Resource & Policy Exchange (RPX)

RPX is a U.S. nonprofit organization dedicated to equalizing standards of health care, information access, and participation in government around the world.

RPX believes that access to factual information and healthcare treatment is a human right

Relevant Expertise

- Global success with NGO and patient group capacity building
- Collaboration with regional patient advocacy groups since 1993
- Recognized leader in the region for breast cancer advocacy work
- Familiar with regional culture, healthcare systems and regulations
- Experienced in working with pharmaceutical companies to deliver International patient assistance