



Republic of the Philippines
QUEZON CITY COUNCIL

Quezon City
22nd City Council

PO22CC-357

97th Regular Session

ORDINANCE NO. SP- **3361**, S-2024

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE COMPREHENSIVE CERVICAL CANCER ELIMINATION PROGRAM OF QUEZON CITY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Councilors ALFRED VARGAS, MPA, CHARM M. FERRER, DOROTHY A. DELARMENTE, M.D., KATE GALANG-COSETENG, BERNARD R. HERRERA and MARIA ELEANOR "Doc Ellie" R. JUAN, O.D.

Co-Introduced by Councilors Tany Joe "TJ" L. Calalay, Joseph P. Juico, Nikki V. Crisologo, Fernando Miguel "Mikey" F. Belmonte, Candy A. Medina, Aly Medalla, Dave C. Valmocina, Tatay Rannie Z. Ludovica, Godofredo T. Liban II, Geleen "Dok G" G. Lumbad, Albert Alvin "Chuckie" L. Antonio III, Don S. De Leon, Wencerom Benedict C. Lagumbay, Atty. Anton L. Reyes, Edgar "Egay" G. Yap, Imee A. Rillo, Raquel S. Malañgen, Irene R. Belmonte, Nanette Castelo-Daza, Marra C. Suntay, Joseph Joe Visaya, Ram V. Medalla, Shaira "Shay" L. Liban, Aiko S. Melendez, Mutya Castelo, Kristine Alexia R. Matias, Eric Z. Medina, Emmanuel Banjo A. Pilar, Vito Sotto Generoso, Victor "Vic" Bernardo, Jose Maria M. Rodriguez and Jhon Angelli "Sami" C. Neri

WHEREAS, Section 15, Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution mandates that the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them;

WHEREAS, Section 11, Article XIII of the same law mandates the State's adoption of an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost;

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WHEREAS, Section 16 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, mandates Local Government Units (LGUs) to promote the health and safety of their constituents and provides, among others, that the LGUs shall exercise such powers, expressly granted, those necessarily implied therefrom as well as powers necessary, appropriate, and incidental to the promotion of the general welfare;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 11215, otherwise known as the National Integrated Cancer Control Act (NICCA), mandates the adoption of an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development, which includes the strengthening of integrative, multidisciplinary, patient and family-centered cancer control policies, programs, systems, interventions and services at all levels of the existing health care delivery system;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 11223, otherwise known as the Universal Health Care Act, strengthens the adoption of an integrated and comprehensive approach in ensuring that all Filipinos are health literate, provided with healthy living conditions, and protected from hazards and risks that could affect their health status;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) reports that in 2023, cancer has surpassed cerebrovascular diseases to become the second leading cause of death among Filipinos;

WHEREAS, in the Philippines, cervical cancer is ranked as the second leading type of cancer among women between 15 and 44 years of age, with the Department of Health (DOH) reporting that more than 6,000 new cases of cervical cancer are diagnosed every year, leading to 12 recorded deaths per day;

WHEREAS, according to the "Strategic Framework for the Comprehensive Prevention and Control of Cervical Cancer in the Western Pacific Region 2023-2030" of the World Health Organization (WHO), the personal and family impacts of untreated, recurrent or locally advanced cervical cancer are profound. Severe refractory pain, chronic bleeding, fistula, weight loss and offensive vaginal discharge are common and often leave the woman socially isolated. Due to the inaccessibility of appropriate medication for pain relief and the absence of palliative care services in many settings, many women experience unacceptable suffering and terrible death;

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WHEREAS, WHO also reports that cervical cancer affects women during productive and childbearing ages. Consequently, the loss of a woman means a family has lost a woman who can contribute to family income, and the children have lost a mother and carer;

WHEREAS, cervical cancer is a disease caused by carcinogenic infections of the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) and one or more of these HPV types has been implicated in 99.7% of cases of carcinomas in the cervix; from the medical standpoint, cervical cancer is preventable and curable when detected early and managed effectively;

WHEREAS, WHO launched the “Cervical Cancer Elimination Initiative” which called upon countries to act towards the elimination of the disease by reaching and maintaining an incidence rate of below 4 per 100,000 women through, among others, HPV vaccination of 90% of girls by the age of 15;

WHEREAS, according to WHO, every peso invested in cervical cancer elimination targets will generate more than three-times the economic benefit from women’s contribution in the workforce and the rate of return increases 26 times when all societal benefits are taken into account;

WHEREAS, the 73rd World Health Assembly issued a Resolution entitled “Global strategy to accelerate the elimination of cervical cancer as a public health problem and its associated goals and targets for the period 2020-2030,” stating that the prioritization of vaccination of girls against HPV is the most effective long-term intervention for reducing the risk of developing cervical cancer;

WHEREAS, DOH has issued Department Memorandum No. 2025-0316 entitled “Guidelines in the Implementation of Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccination,” in view of its position that vaccination against HPV remains the primary prevention against cervical cancer;

WHEREAS, Department of Education (DepEd) has issued DepEd Memorandum No. 173, s. 2017 entitled “Inclusion of Human Papilloma Virus Vaccination in School-Based Immunization Program,” to ensure prevention of morbidity and mortality of school-age children due to vaccine-preventable diseases;

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WHEREAS, both the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and the Civil Service Commission (CSC) have issued workplace cancer control policies in line with the NICCA through Labor Order No. 20-23 and CSC Resolution No. 2400721 dated August 14, 2024, respectively, which both endeavor to prevent and control cancer and improve cancer survivorship in the workplace;

WHEREAS, the Quezon City Government has recognized cervical cancer as an important public health concern and has passed Quezon City Ordinance No. SP-3135, S-2022, otherwise known as the Quezon City Free Pap Smear Ordinance, as a programmatic solution for women's health particularly for the early prevention of cervical cancer, cervical erosion, cervical infection, abnormal vaginal discharge, cervical polyps and such other infections related therefrom;

WHEREAS, the Quezon City Government has been at the forefront of innovative policies for cancer control, having passed the first ordinance localizing the NICCA in the Philippines, through Quezon City Ordinance No. SP-3285, S-2024, otherwise known as the Quezon City Integrated Cancer Control Ordinance (QCICCO);

WHEREAS, the QCICCO establishes the Quezon City Integrated Cancer Control Program, which mandates the implementation of a dedicated City-wide elimination and vaccination plan for cervical cancer;

WHEREAS, catalyzing the efforts of the City Health Department towards cervical cancer elimination requires further policy support to effectively address documented barriers to access availability, and acceptability of public health interventions, such as vaccine hesitancy and poor health-seeking behavior;

WHEREAS, indeed, Quezon City is a pioneering Local Government Unit for public health policies and it continues to be a trailblazer in instituting evidence-based and people- and family-centered measures aimed at the promotion of health and safety, the enhancement of the right of the people to a balanced ecology, and the preservation of the comfort and convenience of QCitizens.

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NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF QUEZON CITY IN
REGULAR SESSION ASSEMBLED:

SECTION 1. TITLE. – This Ordinance shall be known and cited as the
“Quezon City Cervical Cancer Elimination Ordinance.”

SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY. – It is the policy of the
Quezon City Government to strengthen its public health system to ensure
sustained delivery of effective and comprehensive people-, family-, and
community-centered cancer control programs across the life course to effect
major reductions in premature death from cancer and the improvement in
quality of life and cancer survival rates.

Towards this end, the Quezon City Government shall take a proactive
role in protecting vulnerable and at-risk groups in its population from
carcinogenic infections through the effective implementation of health
promotion and disease prevention programs, compliant with national and
international best practices and standards.

SECTION 3. CERVICAL CANCER ELIMINATION PROGRAM. – The City
Health Department, in collaboration with the Department of Health (DOH)
and other relevant public and private stakeholders, shall develop and
implement a sub-program on cervical cancer elimination as part of the
Quezon City Integrated Cancer Control Program.

SECTION 4. PROGRAMMATIC OBJECTIVES. – The Comprehensive
Cervical Cancer Elimination Program shall have the following objectives:

- a. Develop and implement a holistic health systems approach to reach
cervical cancer elimination targets in Quezon City;
- b. Implement and scale up cervical cancer screening programs at the
institutional and community levels;
- c. Establish an updated registry/ies on vaccine coverage, the
utilization of cervical cancer screening services, and clinical
outcomes of screened cervical cancer patients;
- d. Establish an updated inventory for screening modalities, supplies,
and devices;

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- e. *Progressively strengthen the availability and accessibility of Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccines approved by the Philippine Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to eligible populations;*
- f. *Scale up HPV vaccination efforts for priority target and other eligible populations, including gender-neutral vaccination, based on DOH, World Health Organization (WHO), and other relevant governmental guidelines;*
- g. *Provide support to educators on school-based HPV vaccination and to barangay governments on community-based HPV vaccination;*
- h. *Facilitate the timely diagnostics and treatment of patients identified with cervical disease, including further diagnostics and treatment of cervical pre- and invasive cancer through effective patient navigation and referral;*
- i. *Bridge patients needing treatment for precancerous lesions or cervical cancer to DOH-accredited cancer treatment centers and access sites;*
- j. *Assist cervical cancer patients in funding their treatment by tapping into the Cancer Assistance Fund (CAF), Cancer and Supportive-Palliative Medicines Access Program (CSP-MAP), Medical Assistance to Indigent and Financially Incapacitated Patients (MAIFIP) Program, and other treatment funding mechanisms from both public and private sectors;*
- k. *Increase the health literacy of the population, especially vulnerable groups, towards behavioral change to help reduce the risk of HPV infection and transmission;*
- l. *Integrate education and health literacy activities, adolescent health services, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and sexual and reproductive health services, and communicable disease and non-communicable disease health services, as part of the approaches towards cervical cancer elimination;*
- m. *Support the implementation of workplace-based or workplace-initiated activities for cervical cancer elimination, with reference to Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and Civil Service Commission (CSC) guidelines on cancer control policy;*

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- n. Secure the support of relevant stakeholders and strengthen stakeholder engagement, coordination, research, innovation, and resource mobilization in order to support and accelerate the prevention, elimination, and control of cervical cancer in Quezon City;
- o. Institute monitoring and evaluation mechanisms on the implementation and clinical outcome measurements of the programmatic components thereof;
- p. Design and implement appropriate aftercare/reintegration interventions for cancer patients, persons living with cancer, and cancer survivors through a community level of care;
- q. Support the recovery and reintegration to society of cancer survivors;
- r. Support the elimination of various forms of burden on patients, persons living with cancer, survivors and their families;
- s. Develop a roadmap towards cervical cancer elimination in Quezon City, in line with key performance indicators, goals, and other metrics of the DOH and WHO, including targets on resource mobilization and partnerships;
- t. Synergize with the implementation of the broader Quezon City Integrated Cancer Control Program;
- u. Coordinate with the Gender and Development (GAD) Council Office towards joint activities and undertakings that integrate cervical cancer elimination;
- v. Align with the strategic framework of the National Integrated Cancer Control Council and national and international best practices and standards; and
- w. Achieve such goals and objectives that may be set by the Quezon City Cancer Control Review Board relative to cervical cancer elimination.

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To achieve these objectives, the City Health Department may seek the technical assistance of other city government departments or offices, barangay governments, City-owned or operated hospitals and health facilities, the DOH, and other relevant national government agencies or instrumentalities, or procure such goods and services necessary for the effective implementation of this Ordinance, in compliance with government procurement laws and regulations.

SECTION 5. CORE PROGRAMMATIC COMPONENTS. – The Quezon City Cervical Cancer Elimination Program shall have the following core programmatic components: cervical cancer screening; HPV vaccination; patient navigation and referral for treatment; and health promotion and education.

SECTION 6. CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING. – The City Health Department shall conduct cervical cancer screening activities based on DOH and relevant governmental standards, principally targeting at risk populations and vulnerable groups, through FDA-approved approaches or modalities that aim to achieve the early detection of precancerous cervical lesions, including, but not exclusive or restricted to, Pap smear procedures, visual inspection with acetic acid (VIA), Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) cervical screening, or Artificial Intelligence (AI)-assisted cervical cancer screening.

SECTION 7. HPV VACCINATION. – In coordination with the DOH and Department of Education (DepEd), the City Health Department shall strengthen the roll-out school-based and/or community-based HPV vaccination activities, according to DOH guidelines and prescribed doses and schedules as per approved product indications of the FDA. Such activities shall be complemented by information dissemination campaigns that provide correct, accurate, and age-appropriate guidance on vaccine safety and efficacy to the target population, parents or guardians, and other stakeholders, leveraging the use of available and effective platforms, such as, but not limited to face-to-face interactions, mass media, social media, learning materials, and others, as may be identified by the City Health Department to support schools, government offices, community centers, and other areas identified as priority in Quezon City.

SECTION 8. PATIENT NAVIGATION AND REFERRAL SYSTEM. – The City Health Department shall integrate individuals identified or diagnosed with precancerous or cancerous lesions of the cervix with the patient navigation and referral network and other services of the Quezon City Integrated Cancer Control Program under QCICCO.

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SECTION 9. HEALTH PROMOTION AND EDUCATION. – *The City Health Department, in coordination with the Public Affairs and Information Services Department (PAISD), the GAD Council Office, other relevant city government departments, and barangay governments, shall promote and disseminate factual, age-appropriate, and gender-sensitive key messages on cervical cancer risk factors, early warning signs and symptoms, cancer prevention and control, and adoption of healthy lifestyles, as well as the mainstreaming of practical supportive care and psychosocial support programs. The City Health Department shall likewise advocate for cervical cancer awareness, prevention, and control services through orientations, seminars, and trainings in educational institutions, workplaces, and the public and private sectors.*

SECTION 10. HEALTH WORKERS TRAINING. – *The City Health Department, in coordination with the DOH, the Human Resource Management Department, the GAD Council Office, and other relevant department or offices of the Quezon City Government, and barangay governments, shall enhance the related competencies of health care professionals on cervical cancer elimination services through appropriate trainings, workshops, or other learning modalities and provide adequate training on vaccine storage, safety handling, and administration.*

SECTION 11. APPROPRIATION. – *The funds needed to cover the implementation of this Ordinance shall be included in the Annual Budget of the Quezon City Government.*

SECTION 12. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS. – *The City Health Department, in consultation and coordination with other members of the Cancer Control Review Board, the GAD Council Office, DOH, DepEd, and other appropriate national government agencies, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs), private sector representatives, and other stakeholders, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Ordinance no later than 120 days upon the effectivity of this Ordinance.*

SECTION 13. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. – *Should any provision of this Ordinance be declared unconstitutional or invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, the provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.*

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SECTION 14. REPEALING CLAUSE. – All Quezon City ordinances, resolutions, executive orders, memorandum circulars, and administrative regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.


SECTION 15. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE. – This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its approval.

ENACTED: November 25, 2024.



GIAN G. SOTTO
City Vice Mayor
Presiding Officer

ATTESTED:



ATTY. JOHN THOMAS S. ALFEROS, III
City Government Department Head III
(City Council Secretary)

APPROVED: JAN 16 2025


MA. JOSEFINA G. BELMONTE
City Mayor

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this Ordinance was APPROVED by the City Council on Second Reading on November 25, 2024 and was PASSED on Third/Final Reading on December 2, 2024.


ATTY. JOHN THOMAS S. ALFEROS, III
City Government Department Head III
(City Council Secretary)

