

INTRODUCTION

- The WHO developed the Essential Medicine List since 1977.
- Aims to help countries prioritize and select medicines to include in their national essential medicine list, and increasingly the national reimbursable medicine list.
- Updated every 2 years.

- Consideration of cancer medicine is substantial since the 1994 version.
- Specific indications included since 2015, especially for targeted therapies.
- Each medicine application is screened according to:
 - Safety & efficacy
 - Disease burden and public health needs
 - Cost-effectiveness

METHODS & MATERIALS

- Review of the antineoplastic chapter between the WHO Essential Medicine List (EML) and Malaysian National Essential Medicine List (NEML) were made.
- The number of medicines in each list were compared between 2007 and 2019.
- Include cytotoxics, targeted therapies, immunomodulators, hormones and supportive medicines.
- The Malaysian NEML only started including antineoplastic agents since 2014 (3rd ed).

RESULTS

Cancer Medicine in WHO EML & Malaysian NEML

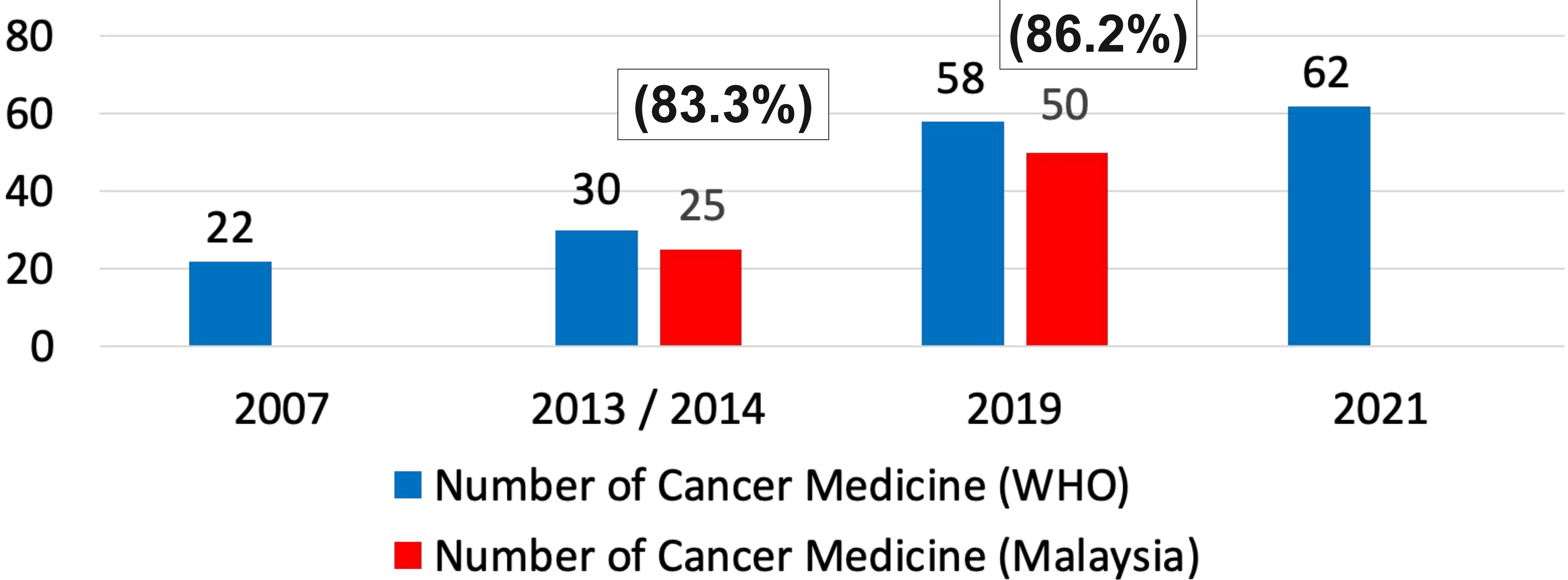


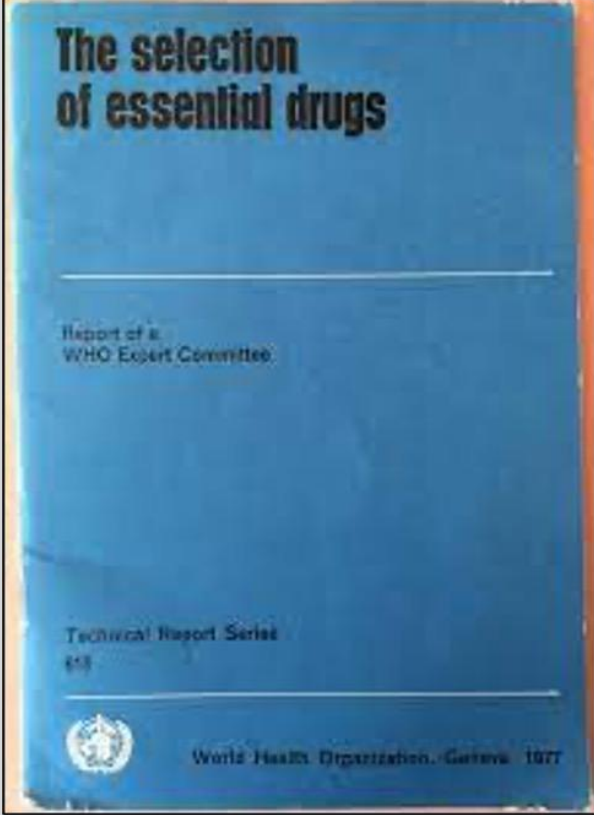
Figure 1: Number of cancer medicine in WHO EML (Blue) and Malaysian NEML (Red).

References

1. Essential Medicines for Cancer: WHO recommendations and national priorities. Robertson J, Barr R, Shulman LN, Forte G, Magrini N, Bull World Health Organ. 2016;94(10): 735-42
2. WHO Essential List of Medicine 2007, 2013 and 2019.
3. Malaysian National Essential Medicine List 2012, 2014 and 2019.

Essential Medicines

Medicines that satisfy the priority health care needs of the population.
These are medications to which people should have access to at all times in sufficient amount.



DISCUSSIONS

- An audit of national EML for 135 countries was conducted with the 2013 WHO EML.

- Only included 25 cytotoxics (support medication excluded)



Country	Median No.
All (n = 135)	17
Malaysia	21

Figure 2: Overall median number of cancer medicine

Income group	Median No.
Low-income (n=28)	9
Lower middle income (n=44)	18
Upper middle income (n=42)	19
High income (n=18)	20
Malaysia	21

Figure 3: Median number of cancer medicine according to income group.
(Malaysia - upper middle income group)

Limitations

- Approved indications are not included or specified in the WHO EML until 2015.

- Reliance on Ministry of Health Formulary (*bluebook*) more than Malaysian NEML in daily practice.

CONCLUSION

- The Malaysian NEML consistently includes more than 80% of cancer medicines listed in WHO EML.

- Alignment of National EML with WHO may help to prioritize drug procurement and improve access in the public health sector.