

The role of international organisations in the elimination of hepatitis: The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control

Viral Hepatitis Prevention Board meeting 5th April 2023
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ECDC – European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control



- An agency of the European Union founded in 2005, located in Solna, Sweden
- Currently 326 employees & 24 EU nationalities
- Budget in 2022: almost 96 million euros

ECDC mission & role

To identify, assess and communicate current and emerging threats to human health posed by infectious diseases.

**Disease
Surveillance &
Epidemic
intelligence**

**Response support
& Risk assessments**

**Preparedness &
capacity
strengthening**

**Scientific advice &
guidance**

**EU and external
stakeholders &
Country support**

**Public health
training**

Communication

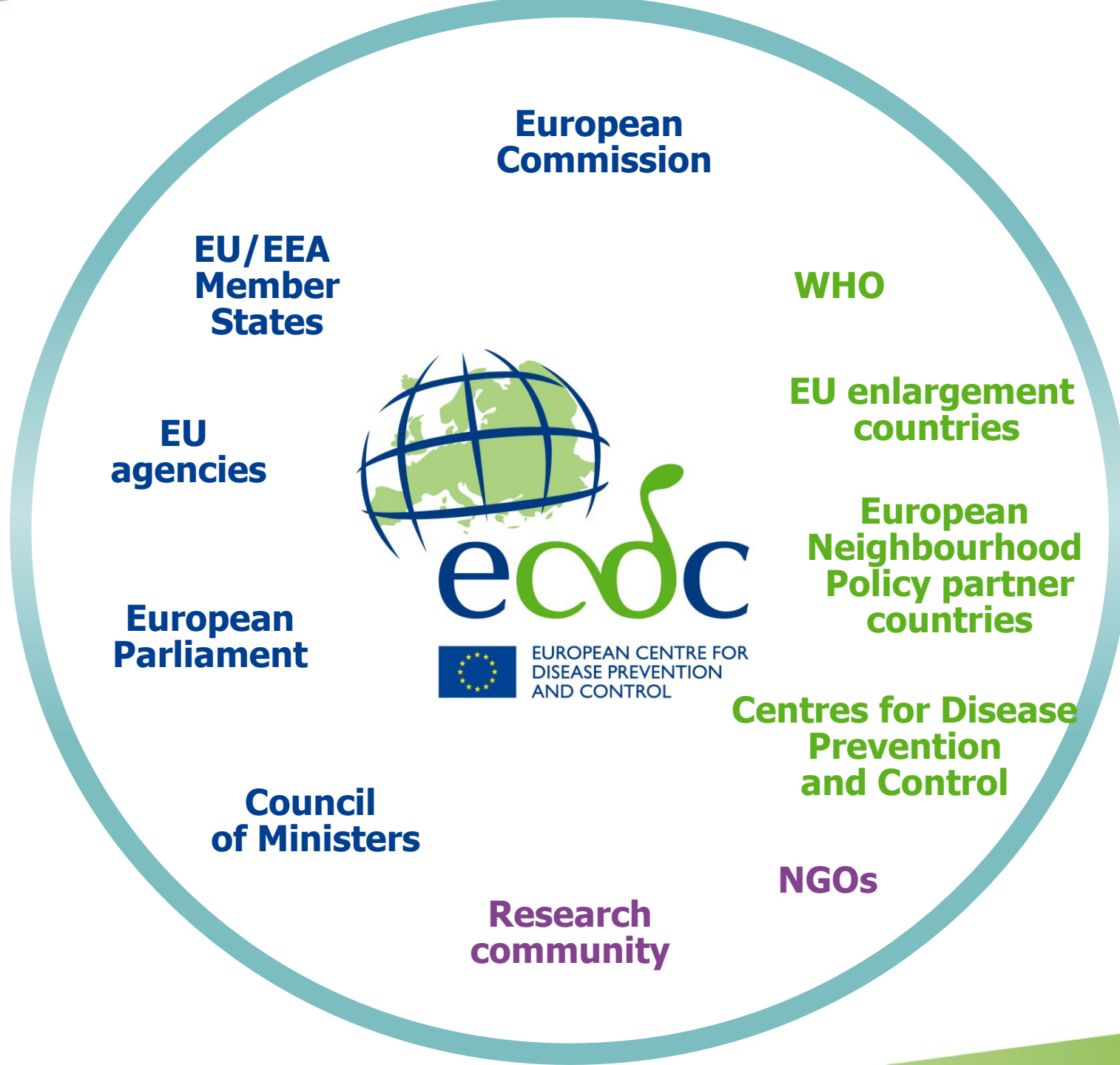
**Vaccine-preventable diseases
and Immunisation**

**Sexually transmitted
infections, Blood-Borne Viruses
and Tuberculosis**

**Antimicrobial resistance and
healthcare-associated
infections**

**Emerging, Food and vector-
borne diseases**

Partners



Strengthened ECDC mandate

- Epidemiological **surveillance** via integrated systems enabling real-time surveillance
- **Preparedness** and **response** planning, reporting and auditing
- Provision of non-binding **recommendations** and options for risk management
- Capacity to mobilise and deploy **EU Health Task Force**
- Network of EU reference **laboratories**
- Wider **global reach**



The Hepatitis B and C Network

- The Network was set up by ECDC in 2010 with the first meeting held in Stockholm in March 2011
- Network comprises of representatives from all EU/EEA Member States
- Subgroup of network members formed the 'Coordination Committee'
- Initial focus of the network was to develop and implement a surveillance system for new diagnoses of acute and chronic hepatitis B and C



ECDC's programme of work in supporting countries reach the hepatitis elimination goals

Support in understanding
epidemiological situation

- Surveillance newly diagnosed infections
- Generation robust data on prevalence, morbidity, mortality, etc

Monitoring of responses to
hepatitis B/C

- Monitoring programme to support countries in assessing progress towards the elimination of hepatitis

Provision of technical
support

- Technical support to EU/EEA countries
- Development of evidence based guidance

Hepatitis B and C surveillance timeline

1st data
collection

Surveillance
review

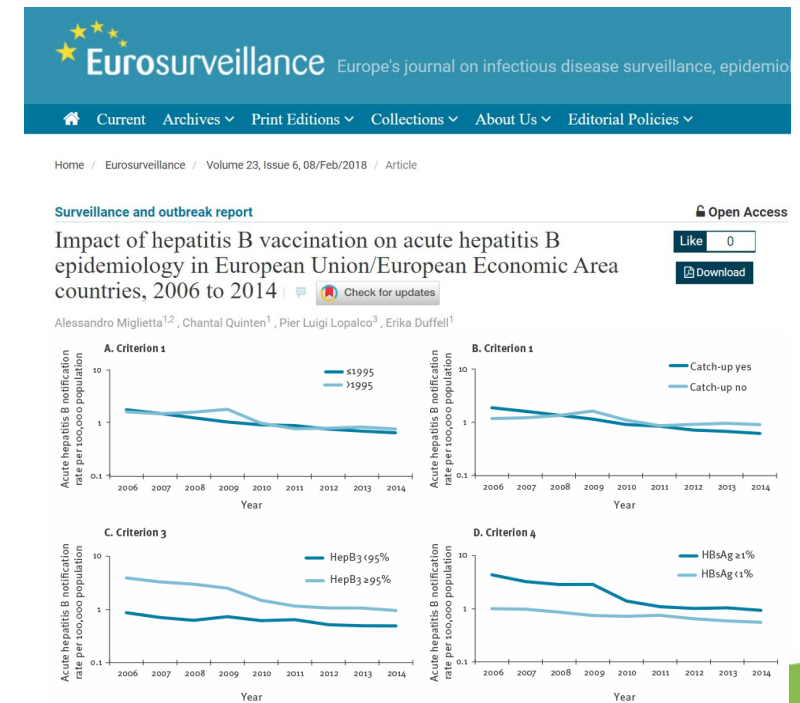
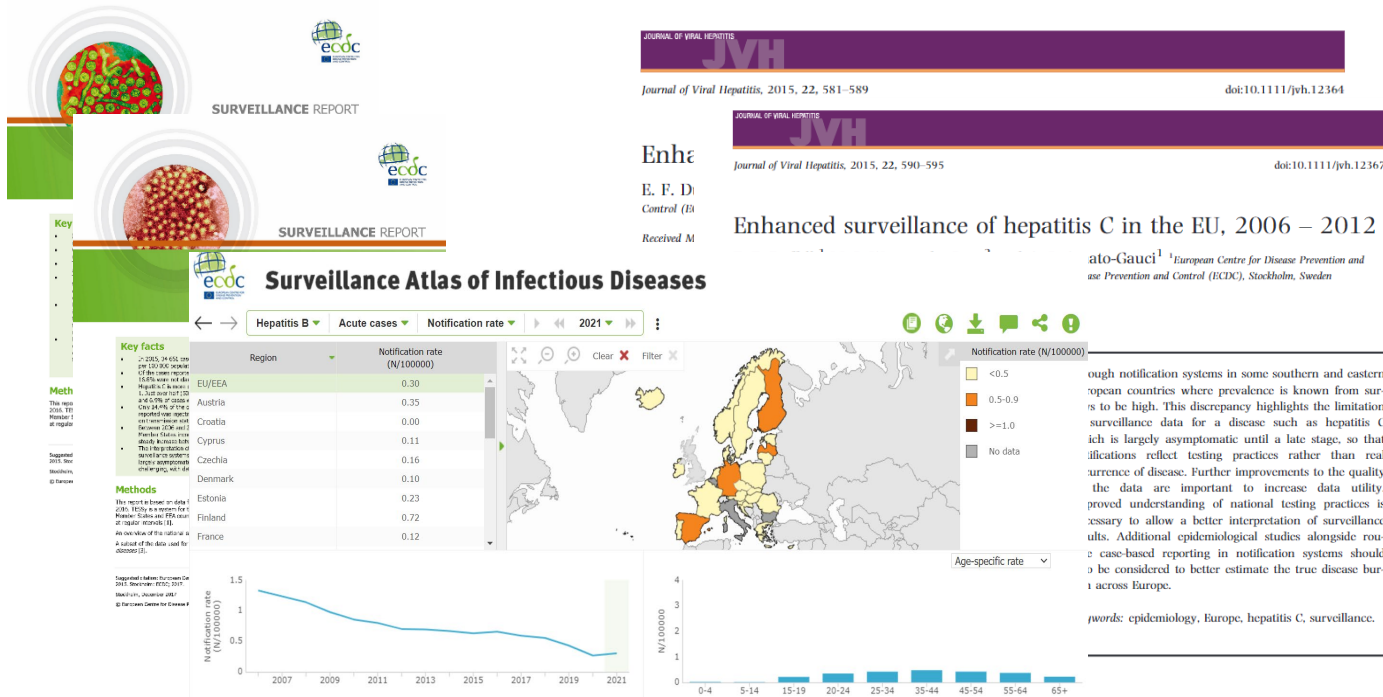
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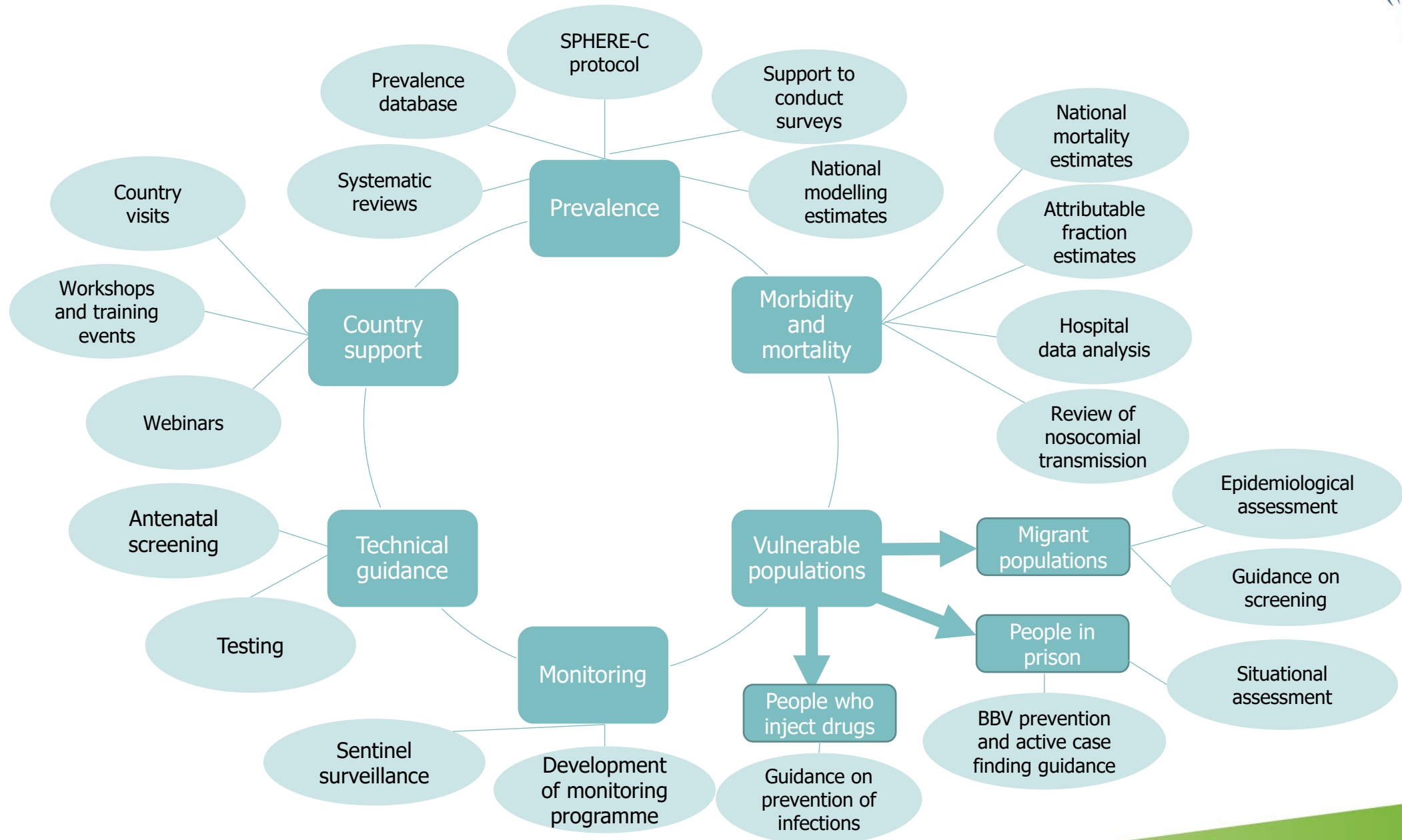
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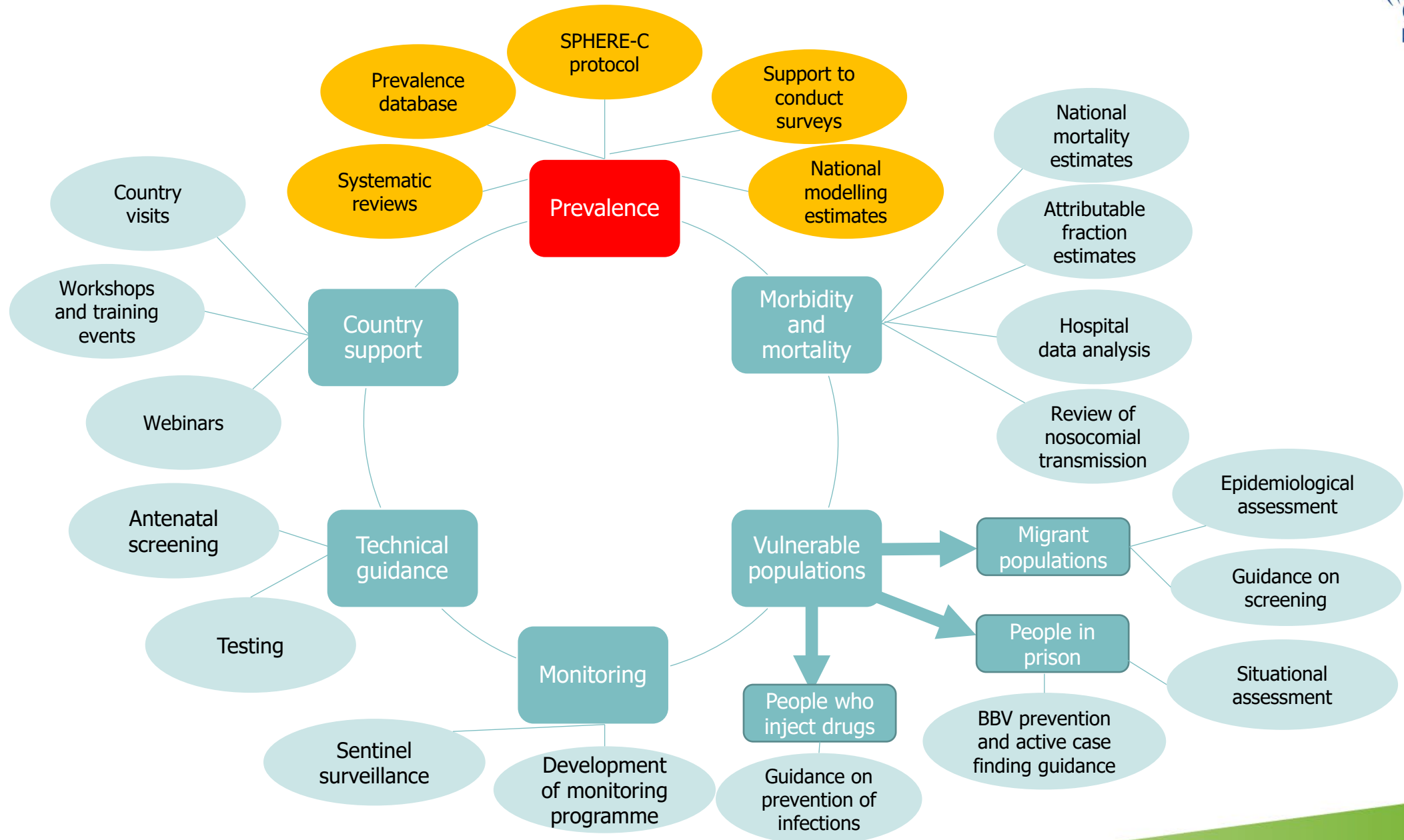
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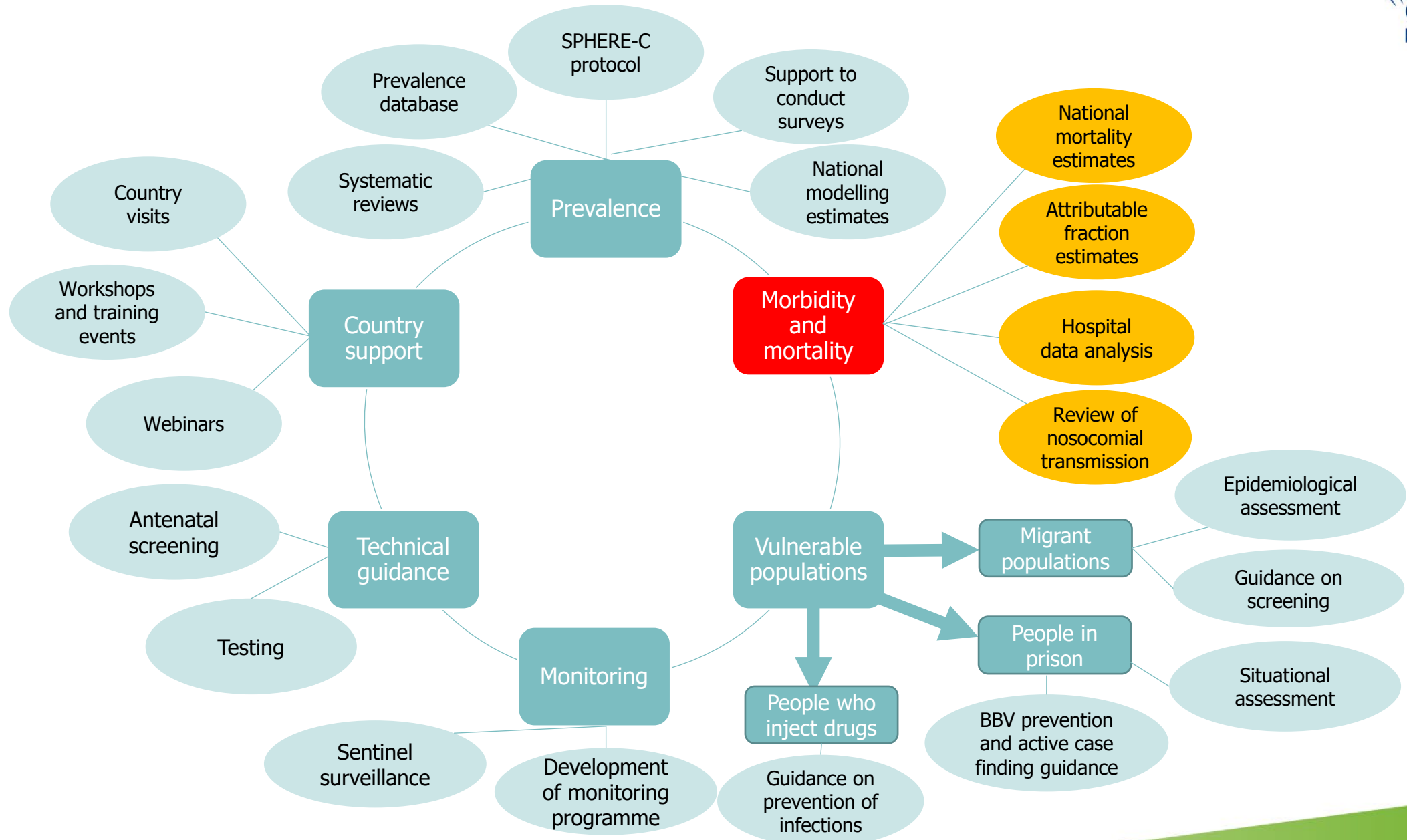
Development of the hepatitis programme of work



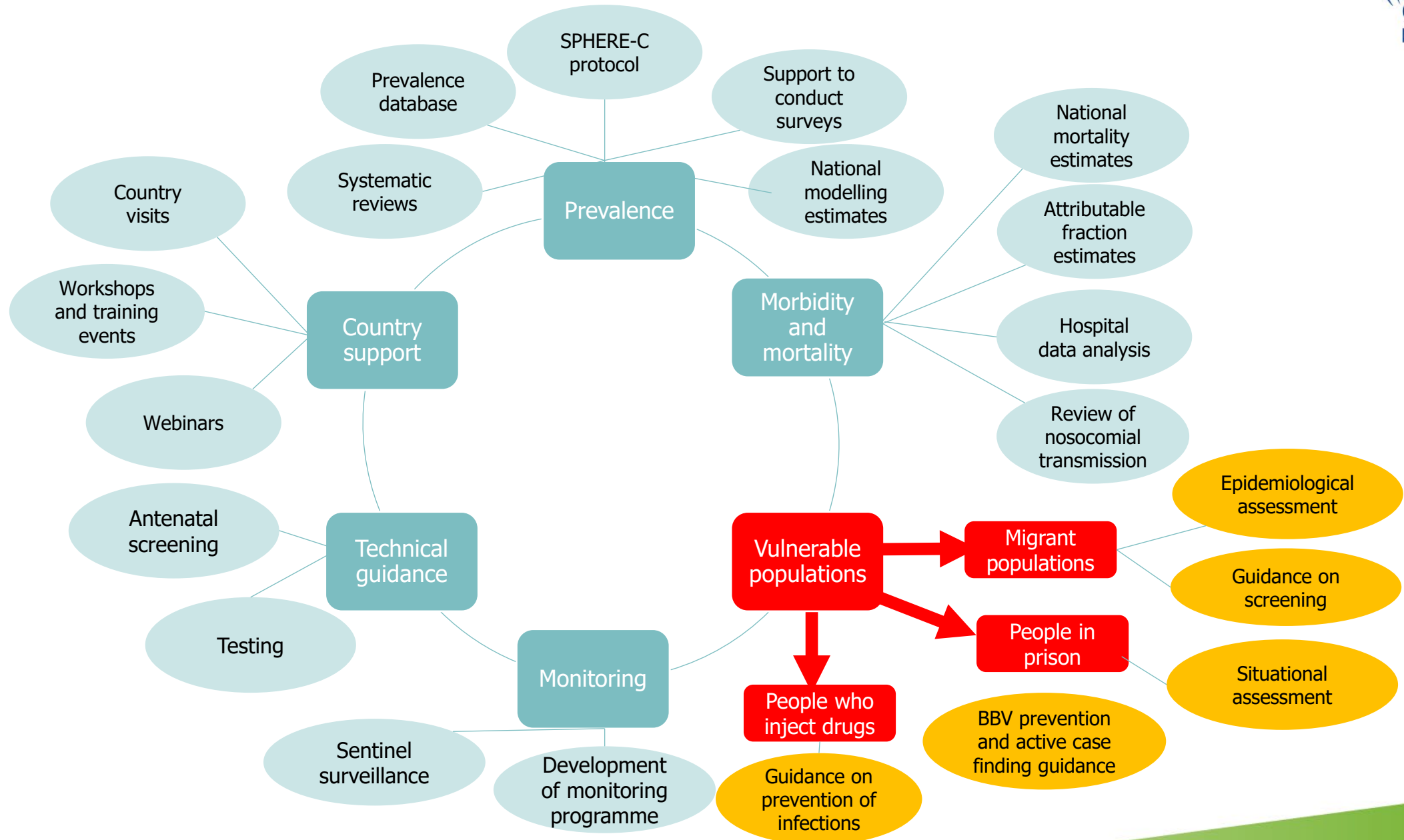
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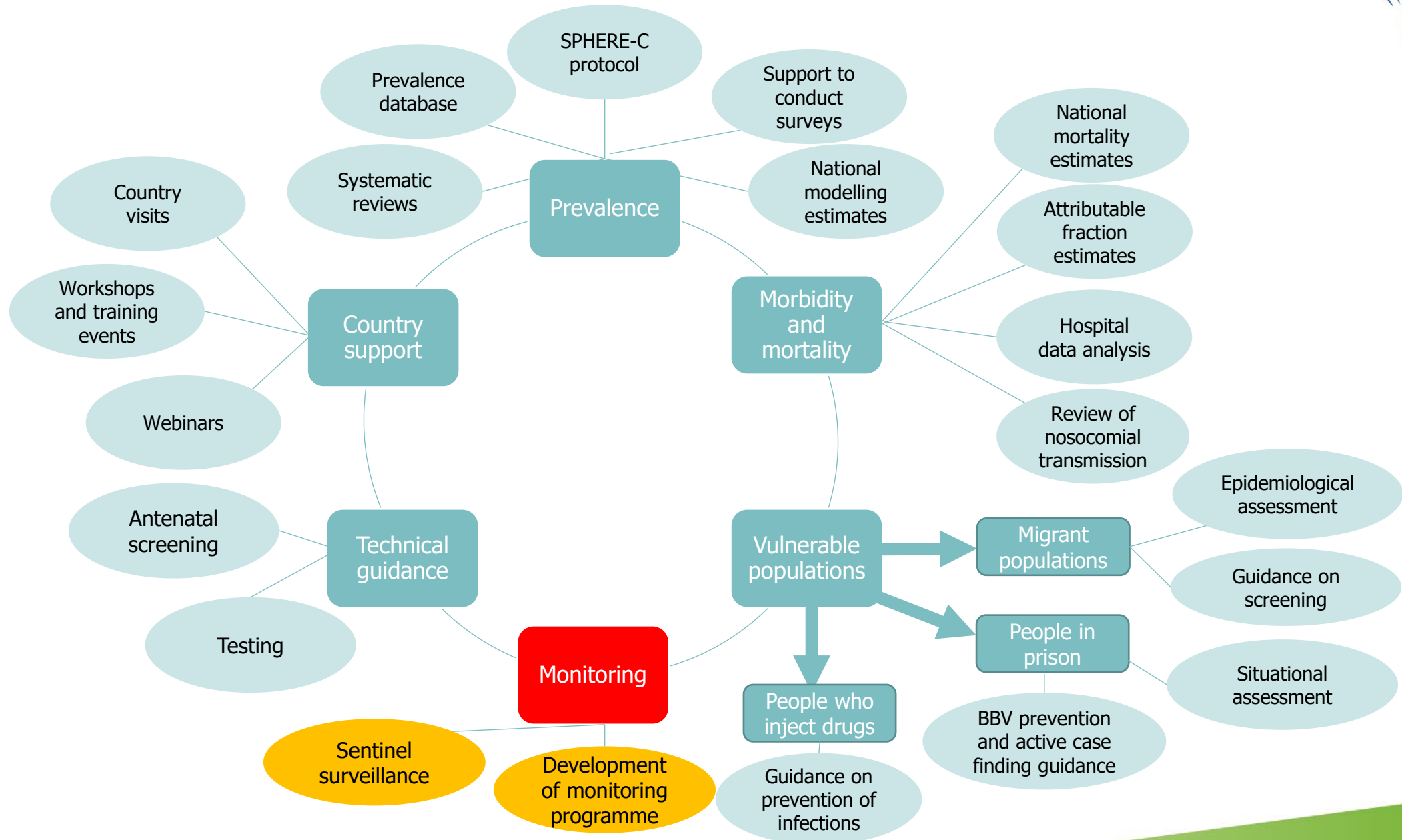
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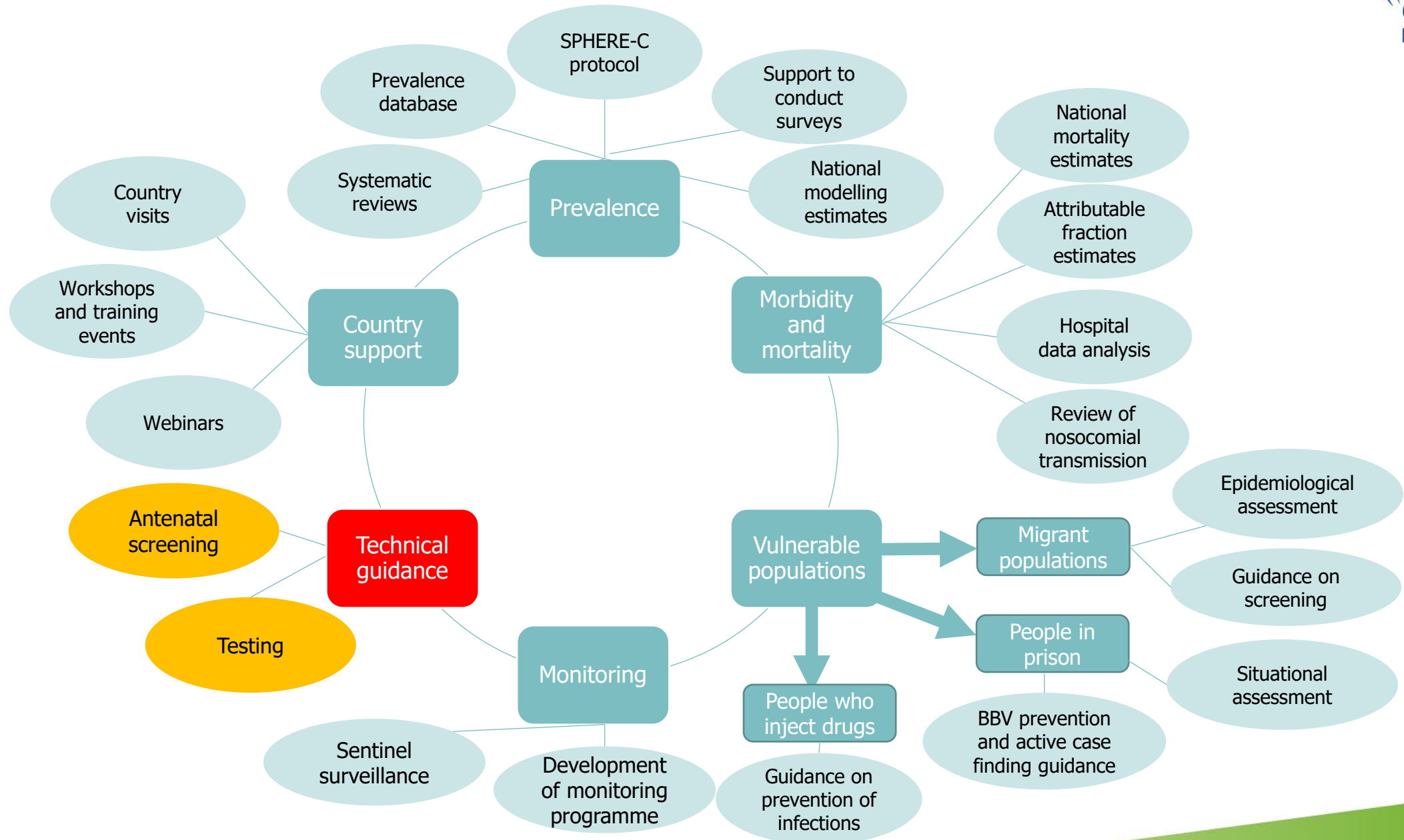
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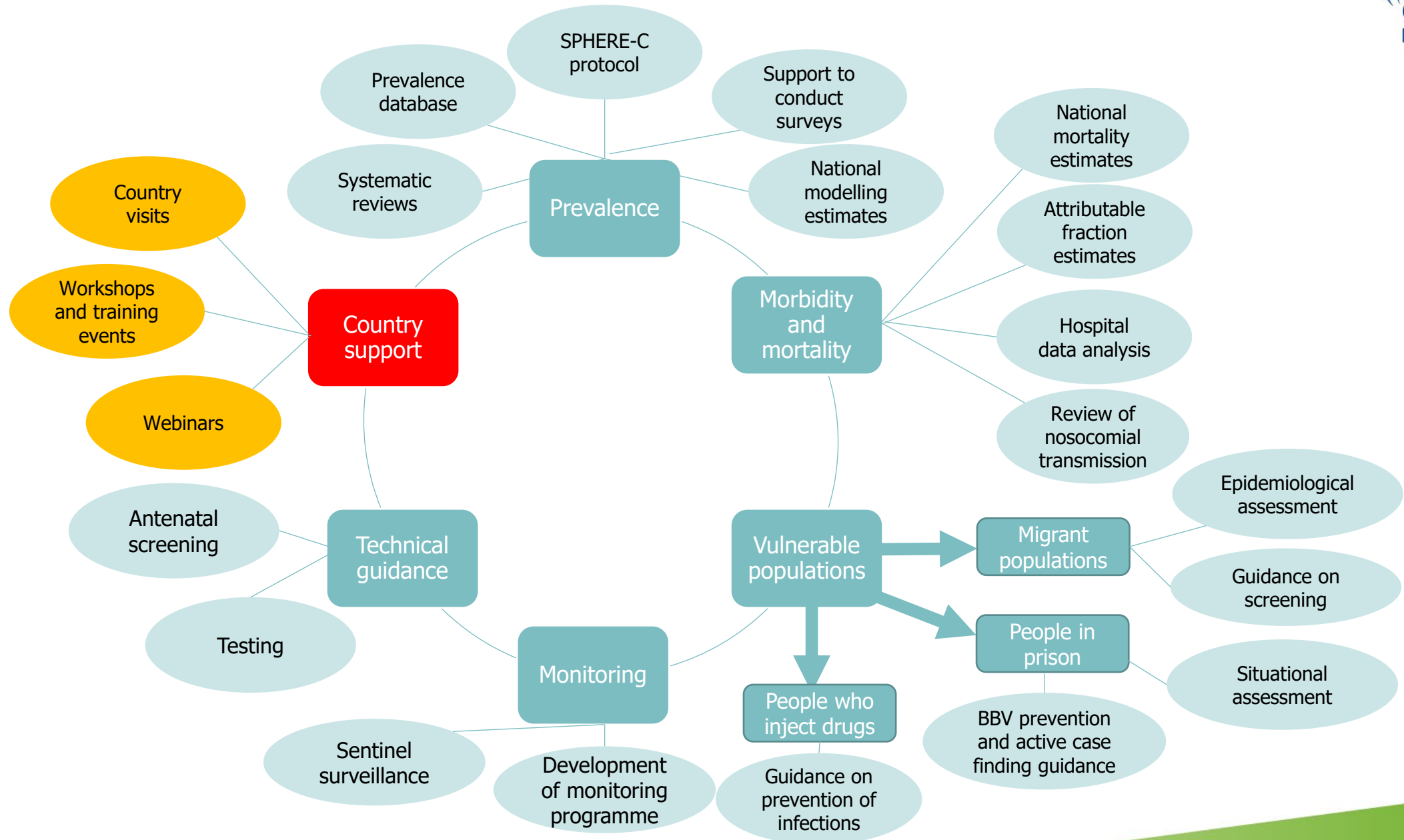
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Development of the hepatitis programme of work



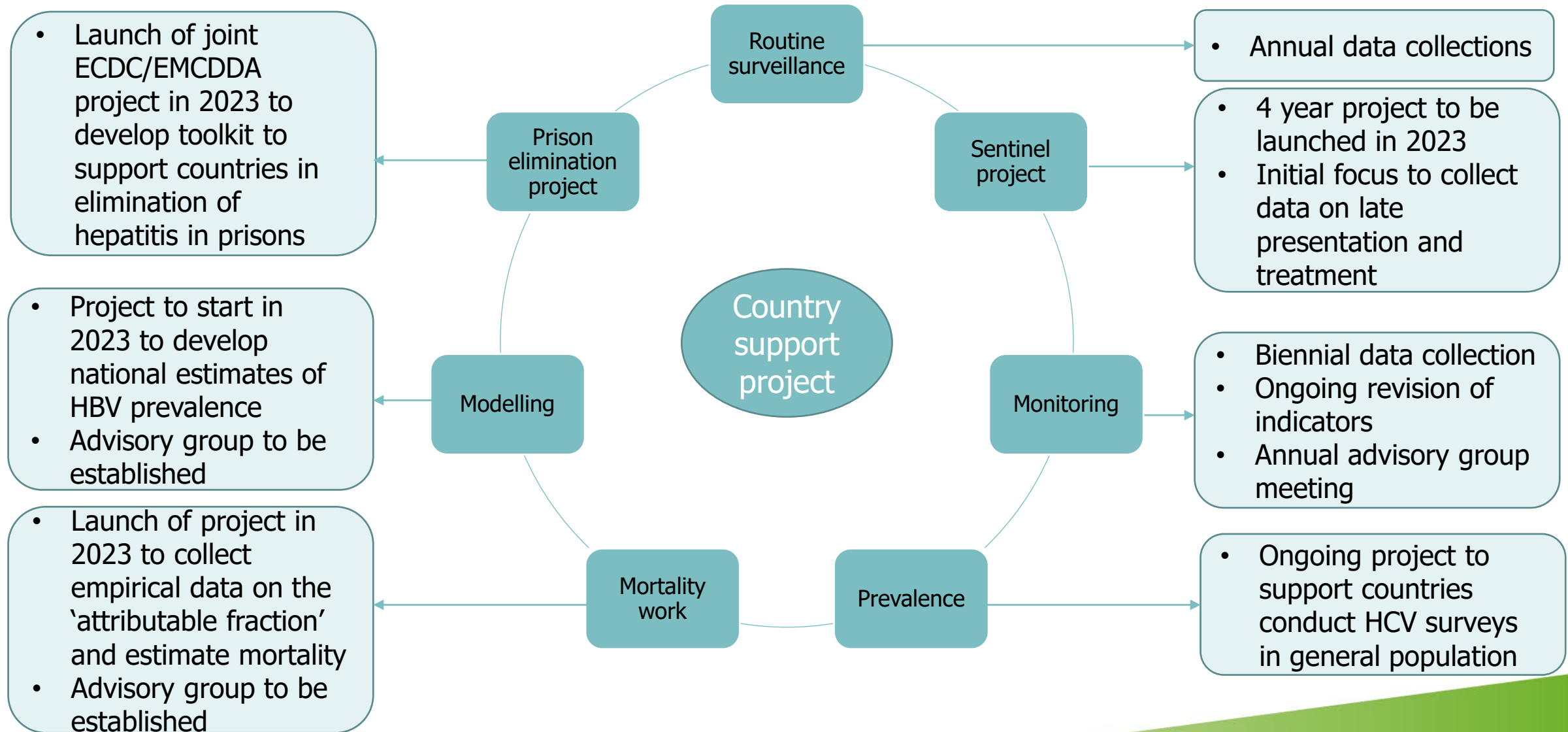
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Country support capacity building 2023

   			Target audience
   	March 21 15:00-16:00: Webinar on improving testing for HIV and related co-infections in general practice		GPs, nurses
  	April 12-13, Stockholm: Workshop on increasing the use surveillance and monitoring data for action		CSOs (Greece, Italy, Portugal, Spain)
	May 16-17 (two mornings), Online: Training on implementing PrEP operational guidance		Network members
  	May 31-Jun 1 (two afternoons), Online: Training on implementing antenatal screening for HIV, hepatitis B, syphilis guidance		Network members
   	June 14 15:00-16:00: Webinar on stigma in general practice: what it is and how it impacts health		GPs, nurses
  	Autumn: Follow-up on implementing integrated testing roadmaps		Network members
  	Autumn: Implementing the PWID guidance		TBD
  	Autumn: Consultancies/country-to-country exchanges		TBD

Current ECDC hepatitis projects



Challenges for ECDC in supporting countries reach hepatitis elimination targets



- Variation in the support needed by different countries
- Variation in local public health capacity to work on hepatitis
- Large number of diverse issues to be addressed as identified by the network for ECDC
- Limited resources at ECDC (staff and budget)
- Turnover of staff at ECDC
- Competing priorities for ECDC staff
- Competing communicable disease priorities at ECDC
- Maintaining strong collaborations across organisations and ensuring effective synergies