

MONTENEGRO

# VHPB BALKAN MEETING

*INTRODUCTION IN THE  
HEALTH CARE SYSTEM  
AND INFECTIOUS  
DISEASE SERVICE*



# MONTENEGRO COUNTRY PROFILE

- Population (in millions) (year): **617.683** Statistical Yearbook of Montenegro
- Gross national income per capita (int EUR) (year): Gross national income of Montenegro in 2020 was 4 252 million euros. Gross national income per capita in 2020 was 6 844 EUR.
- Health spending per capita (Euro) in 2020 was 744,16 EUR
- Life expectancy (year).75,9

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## HEALTH CARE SYSTEM AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE SERVICE

- The health system of Montenegro is based on a social health insurance system, with more than 95% of the population being covered by social health insurance. Additional funds come from the state budget, as well as substantial out-of-pocket payments
- The Ministry of Health, the Health Insurance Fund and public and private health care institutions are responsible for health care service delivery. The Health Insurance Fund is responsible for the implementation of health policy related to health insurance. For the implementation of pharmaceutical policy, the state has set up the Agency for Medicines and Medical Devices (CALIMS).
- Health care providers in the public sector include 18 health centres, seven general hospitals, three specialized hospitals, the Clinical Centre of Montenegro, the Institute for Public Health, the network of emergency services, the Blood Transfusion Institute, and the Pharmacies of Montenegro “Montefarm”. Primary care is provided by the “chosen doctor” in the health centre.
- Infectious disease services performing at the Department for infectious disease in 6 General hospitals (secondary level)
- Treatment for viral hepatitis (HVC, HBV) is centralized and performed at the Infectious clinic at the Clinical Centre of Montenegro)

# MONTENEGRO INFECTIOUS DISEASE SERVICE FOR VIRAL HEPATITIS- TESTING

- If a person wants to check his/her viral hepatitis status him/herself, he/she can go :
- 1. Counseling center for HIV (in IPH and 7 counseling centers in PHC in MNE, available from 2022, integrated testing and confidential and free counseling with rapid anti-HCV ab, HbSAg tests)
- 2. PHC as directed by the chosen doctor if the person has symptoms of infection or recognizes the risk of infection by oneself
- 3. Private laboratories (there is no feedback in the form of data, on what is happening with the patient, with a high probability that if the test is positive, the patient decides to go to the PHC to the chosen doctor for referral to the infectious disease specialist)

# MONTENEGRO INFECTIOUS DISEASE SERVICE FOR VIRAL HEPATITIS-DIAGNOSTIC

- When a person has received a positive test result, confirmation is made at the IPH in the Center for Medical Microbiology
- The patient takes a referral from his chosen doctor and goes to IPH
- The following tests are performed for HBV: HbS Ag, HBeAg, anti-HBe, Anti-HBc IgM, anti-HBc IgG, PCR HBV DNA (duration of waiting for results is 7 to 10 days)
- For HCV: anti HCV antibodies, PCRHCV RNA, genotype (duration of waiting for results is 15-30 days)

# MONTENEGRO INFECTIOUS DISEASE SERVICE FOR VIRAL HEPATITIS-START TREATMENT

- After confirming the infection, the patient goes to the chosen doctor who gives a referral to the Infectious Clinic in Clinical centre of MNE
- Patients from whole MNE come to the Infectious Clinic at the Clinical centre of MNE in Podgorica
- After the first examination, the patient receives a report from the infectious disease doctor with a list of analyzes necessary for the approval of the therapy (duration of waiting for results is **from 15-30 days**)

# MONTENEGRO INFECTIOUS DISEASE SERVICE FOR VIRAL HEPATITIS-START TREATMENT

- It is necessary for the patient to do: PCRHCVRNA, genotype, **PCR HBV** (IPH only)
- HBsAG, anti HBc uk, anti HIV, **anti HCV** (IPH lab or private)
- Lab and biochemical analysis KKS, CRP,AST,ALT, GGT, LDH, K, Na, urea, alb, prot, PV, INR, urine,AF (PHC or private)
- Proposal for a „consilium“ with a report from an infectious disease specialist
- echography of abdomen (PHC or private lab)
- Fibroscan (the Infectious Clinic at the Clinical centre of MNE in Podgorica)
- Psychiatrist's report for PWID (PHC or Clinical centre of MNE if patient is on OST) (3-6 months)
- Urine tests on PAS

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## INFECTIOUS DISEASE SERVICE FOR VIRAL HEPATITIS-START TREATMENT

- The patient receives a proposal for therapy from the infectious disease „consilium“ and goes to the NIF, waiting for a decision on the approval of the DAA drug (the waiting procedure lasts 7-10 days).
- Then he/she goes to the chosen doctor to submit the approval from the Fund, on the basis of which the doctor writes an electronic prescription for DAA
- Going to the only Pharmacy for the whole Montenegro located in PG and leaving contact with the pharmacist who calls him/HER when the medicine is procured (the procedure takes 5-7 days)
- The patient receives his first DAA therapy after a minimum of 45 days from diagnosis
- For HBV, a patient with a „consilium“ report receives a proposal for therapy and takes therapy prescribe in the only pharmacy in Montenegro, which is located in PG. The patient receives first therapy after a minimum of 10-15 days from diagnosis