

SERBIA

VHPB BALKAN MEETING

*LESSONS LEARNT, BEST
PRACTICES AND
FUTURE CHALLENGES*



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NATIONAL PLAN

- Ministry of Health has formed a Special working group for the control of viral hepatitis Strategy to improve the diagnosis and treatment of viral hepatitis, 2021.
- The general goal of the National Plan is the prevention and control of viral hepatitis, as well as reducing mortality and improving the quality of life of people living with chronic hepatitis

ACTION!

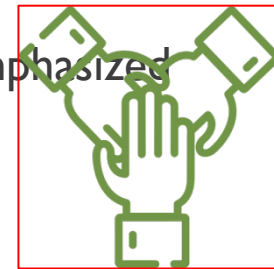
- Ministry of Health has formed a Special working group for the control of viral hepatitis
- Strategy to improve the diagnosis and treatment of viral hepatitis
- Full-dose hepatitis B coverage in newborns is > 90%
- Improvement of HBV prevention, diagnosis and treatment in adults
- **Special emphasis is placed on HCV infection** to provide evidence-based recommendations on screening, care and treatment of persons with chronic hepatitis C.



ACTION!

The need for **cross-sectoral cooperation** between different stakeholders is especially emphasized

- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Justice
- Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Policy
- NGOs
- Health Insurance Fund



ACTION!



- Action plan has been developed.
- It is in the phase of adoption by the Government of the Republic of Serbia.
- ... to provide a legal framework and necessary financial resources for planned activities.
- Vulnerable populations - prisoners, sex workers, PWIDs

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SPECIFIC VIRAL HEPATITIS ISSUES

- Estimated prevalence of HCV infection in Serbia is 1,13%
- There is about 70.000 Anti HCV+ people in Serbia
- Cured + spontaneous HCV elimination + death = remained about 50.000 people with HCV infection that we have to test and treat!

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SPECIFIC VIRAL HEPATITIS ISSUES

- A large number of undetected and untreated HCV patients
- Insufficient diagnosis (PCR, Fibroscan)
- Late detection, occurrence of complications of HCV infection: Cirrhosis, HCC
- Further spread of HCV infection to other people

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FUTURE CHALLENGES AND NEEDS TO REACH THE 2030 ELIMINATION TARGETS

- to include as many HCV patients as possible in DAA therapy
 - How to achieve this?
- Relaxation of the criteria for the allocation of DAA therapy
- Speeding up and simplifying the procedure of reaching DAA drugs
- Increasing the availability of hepatologists by exiting the Covid regime of certain hospitals and doctors dealing with HCV+ patients
- Finding HCV+ patients among those who have not received DAA therapy and among those who are still undetected
- MORE TESTING & MORE TREATING !



Thank you for your attention