

# Group discussions working group 2 Immunization 15:20 – 16:45

What is needed to achieve the proposed targets and milestones of the WHO Action plan for the health sector response to viral hepatitis in the WHO European Region?



## Working group 2

2018 MILESTONES	2020 TARGETS
<b>IMMUNIZATION</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 90% coverage with three doses of HBV vaccine in countries that implement universal childhood vaccination</li><li>• National guidelines on risk group HAV and HBV vaccination developed and implemented</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 95% coverage with three doses of HBV vaccine in countries that implement universal childhood vaccination</li><li>• <math>\leq 0.5\%</math> HBsAg prevalence in vaccinated cohorts</li><li>• 80% of health care workers vaccinated against HBV</li></ul>



## Working group 2

2018 MILESTONES	2020 TARGETS
<b>PREVENTION OF MOTHER-TO-CHILD TRANSMISSION OF HBV</b>	
<p>For countries that implement universal newborn vaccination:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 85% coverage with timely HBV birth dose vaccination</li></ul> <p>For countries that implement screening of pregnant women and post-exposure prophylaxis of newborns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 85% coverage with screening in pregnant women and 90% coverage with post-exposure prophylaxis in infants born to infected mothers</li></ul>	<p>For countries that implement universal newborn vaccination:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 90% coverage with timely HBV birth dose vaccination</li></ul> <p>For countries that implement screening of pregnant women and post-exposure prophylaxis of newborns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 90% coverage with screening in pregnant women and 95% coverage with post-exposure prophylaxis in infants born to infected mothers</li></ul>



## Working group 2

- What is the current situation?
- What is achievable to reach the milestones/targets? What are the challenges?



## Working group 2

- Immunization is the most advanced – reaching targets 90-95% of the infants/children
- Mandatory system
- What about the ‘underserved’
  - Health visitors – door to door –
  - Roma deliver in hospitals – no issue for birth dose
  - Nurses responsible for immunization
- Catch-up program for ado’s in Albania, not in Macedonia



## Working group 2

- No hepatitis A immunization policy yet in Albania, Bulgaria, Rep of Macedonia
- Currently in a transitional situation for hepA epimdeiology
- Cfr WHO recommendation in such situation
- What about hepatitis A vaccine recommendation?
- Need for sero-survey in < 15y olds
- Need for a model to calculate the impact of several strategies
- Look at the cost-effectiveness
- Then make a cost-effectiveness analysis to support the decision
- Present to NITAG



## Working group 2

- Perinatal transmission
- Birth dose with high coverage, but no HBIg for the moment
- What is the point of screening the mother as part of prenatal care?
  - Do we need to treat the mother in the third trimester with anti-virals?
  - no support for that option!
- Give priority to screen
  - and offer HBIg to exposed newborns
    - Efficacy > 98%
    - or offer HBIg only to those newborns of HBeAg+ mothers
- Need for good coordination between pre-natal care and gynecologist team/ ped team, ...



## Working group 2

- Need for a monitoring system for vaccination. Not only for hepB also for other vaccines – an integrated system to keep it efficient
  - There is good will but no database or register for immunization
  - Discrepancy between official data and what is registered
  - Need for linking between registries/ coordination
  - Registries are paper-based or increasingly web-based
- Need to have a national plan where responsibilities are highlighted – who is responsible for what (MOH, IPH, ...)
  - So far no coordination yet – so struggling for a web-based system in some countries (already in place in Albania – in extension phase)
- Monitor timing of birth dose, and other infant vaccination
  - To be included in a national plan for some of the countries
- (Set up pro-active campaigns to underline the importance of timely immunization – for HCW as well as for parents/general public)
- (Monitor public/parental perception on vaccination, in particular on birth dose vaccination.)
- Funding of immunization programs needs to be guaranteed!
- Screening program for pregnant women will be challenging – to reach good screening coverage!

