

Group B

Does the «hurdle» has an impact on public health and/or the elimination goals

- Hurdles on the: individual / community / policy level
- Issue of the definitions «eradication» vs. «elimination»
- “Parallel epidemics” (general population, high-risk groups): demands parallel actions
- The question about elimination in target populations vs. general population:
 - Specific groups will need **separate strategies**
 - Variations among the countries: **country-specific strategies**
 - **Integrated models of care**: simplification / scalability / patient oriented
- Strengthening **health information**
- Strengthening **awareness**, incl. reducing **stigma**, demand for testing and treatment
- Strengthening **monitoring systems**
- Still strong need for increased political commitment / role of the community and advocacy groups

Is there a need to adopt or create guidelines/recommendations

- Yes, especially for specific risk/ target groups
- Each country needs country-specific guidelines, based on local context

What can be the role of VHPB and other stakeholders in this process

- Specific guidance / consensus / **position paper** on:
 - VHPB to coordinate stakeholders to produce a consensus on **definition of re-infection?**
 - How to monitor re-infections and to address them
- For guidance we need data, which might not be sufficient currently
 - Need to review the evidence / expert opinion
 - Promote data collection to collect the evidence on different approaches
 - Provide the recommendations on HOW to collect the data
- Patient associations have a role in increasing awareness and advocacy
- Local coalitions of stakeholders for social mobilization