

PUBLICATIONS

Guidelines for the screening, care and treatment of persons with hepatitis C infection

April 2014

http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/111747/1/9789241548755_eng.pdf?ua=1

Worldwide, more than 185 million people are infected with the hepatitis C virus (HCV). It is predicted that one third of those who are chronically infected develop liver cirrhosis or hepatocellular carcinoma. Despite the high prevalence of the disease, most people infected with the virus are unaware of their infection. Treatment is successful in the majority of cases, but is costly, requires regular laboratory testing to monitor treatment response, and is associated with a high rate of side-effects caused by existing medications. Thus, very

few individuals receive treatment for HCV in most low- and middle-income countries. A number of new compounds are in various stages of development and are expected to cure more than 90% of individuals with HCV infection.

These are the first guidelines dealing with hepatitis C treatment produced by WHO and they complement existing guidance on the prevention of transmission of bloodborne viruses. They are intended for policy-makers and government officials who are developing programmes for the screening, care and treatment of individuals with HCV infection, especially in low- and middle-income countries.

The guidelines also serve as a framework and guidance for health care providers managing patients infected with HCV and for the establishment or expansion of related health care services.

From malaria control to malaria elimination: a manual for elimination scenario planning

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http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/112485/1/9789241507028_eng.pdf

Since the mid-2000s, substantial progress has been made in controlling malaria worldwide through large-scale implementation of effective malaria interventions. Since 2000, there has been a 42% reduction in malaria mortality rates globally. However, existing WHO guidance for elimination of malaria comprises only limited discussion of the technical and operational feasibility of achieving this goal.

The Elimination Scenario Planning (ESP) manual is focused on what is needed to achieve very low levels of malaria transmission, and was designed to integrate with the overall programme planning cycle and complement other programme management and planning tools. It provides

malaria-endemic countries with a comprehensive framework to assess different scenarios for moving towards the elimination of malaria, depending on programme coverage and funding availability. It also helps countries to set realistic timelines and provides essential knowledge for strategic planning in the long term.

The ESP manual was produced with partners from the Clinton Health Access Initiative, Imperial College United Kingdom, Johns Hopkins University, the University of Southampton and the Global Health Group at the University of California. The manual addresses the technical, operational and financial factors affecting malaria control, and is applicable to programmes at any point on the path to malaria elimination.

The manual can be used in conjunction with malaria transmission model software, which allows users to explore the effect of a range of intervention packages on the malaria burden in their country and to understand better what levels of intervention might be needed to make elimination possible.

The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) launched its technical report: “Assessing the burden of key infectious diseases among migrant populations in the EU/EEA”

May 2014

The comprehensive report presents the main findings and conclusions of an ECDC project. It provides information as well as could be used as essential source about the burden of infectious diseases among migrants in the European Union (EU)/European Economic Area (EEA) countries.

The project used data from the following data sources: the European Surveillance System, a literature review and a survey of disease focal points in EU/EEA countries. It covers HIV, tuberculosis (TB), hepatitis B and C, gonorrhoea, syphilis, measles, rubella, malaria and Chagas disease.

The most important conclusion of the report is that at a population level most migrants are healthy, and are only more affected by certain conditions such as HIV positivity and diseases such as TB.

The report highlights the need for better data collection and more research to improve understanding of the epidemiology of infectious diseases among migrants in Europe.

The full report is available on the website of the ECDC.

(<http://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications/Publications/assessing-burden-disease-migrant-populations.pdf>)

An executive summary was also published.

(<http://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications/Publications/assessing-burden-disease-migrant-populations-summary.pdf>)