

Linkage to care: what are the challenges?

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- Main Ukrainian challenges for access to viral Hepatitis C (HCV) treatment are common for all post-Soviet countries.
- Challenges can be divided into 3 categories:
 - ✓ national
 - ✓ regional
 - ✓ personal.

Challenges on the national level (1)

1. Lack of trustworthy epidemiological data on situation with HCV (among general population and most-at-risk populations (MARPs))
2. Lack of unified register of HCV patients
3. Lack of collection of statistical data from various healthcare facilities that provide HCV treatment (liver diseases clinics, AIDS centers, private clinics)

Challenges on the national level (2)

4. High price for laboratory and diagnostics examinations and treatment; poor coordination between medical, civil and public sectors in dealing with HCV issues
5. Absence of national HCV program
6. Lack of allocation of funds from state budget

Challenges on the national level (3)

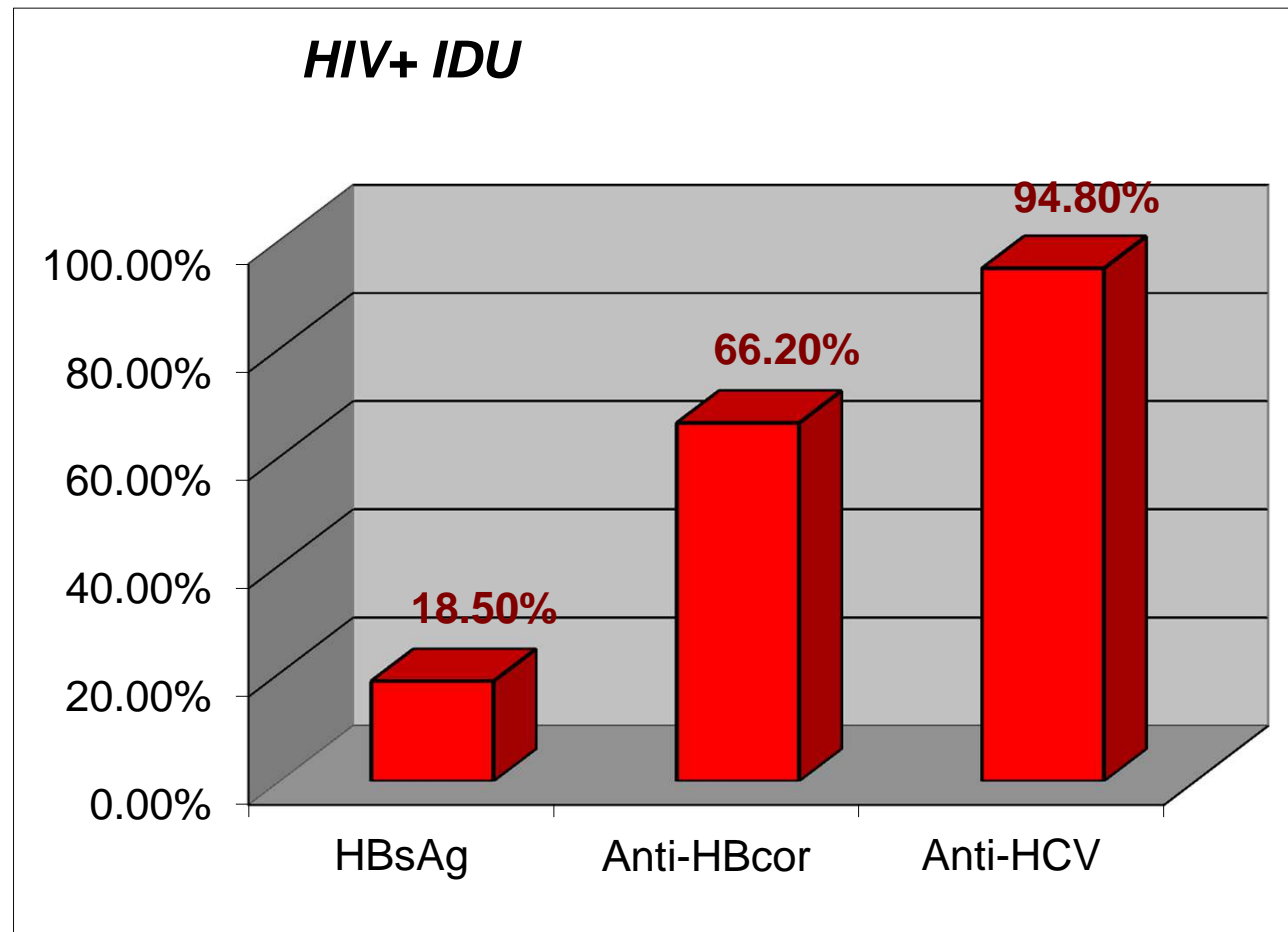
7. Lack of clinical HCV treatment guidelines
8. Absence of new drugs at Ukrainian market Problems with their registration
9. Lobbying of certain pharmaceutical companies

Specific National Challenges in Ukraine

Over **25%** of MARPs are infected with HCV

The prevalence of HCV in IDUs is up to **60%**;
this number reached the most crucial point in HIV-
positive IDUs and in patients with HIV/TB co-infection
(**87.2%**)

The highest HCV prevalence in Ukraine is among MARPs (especially in HIV+IDUs)



Challenges on the regional level (1)

1. Poor coordination between private and public health care facilities
2. Poor coordination between AIDS centers and liver diseases clinics
3. Lack of regional HCV programs, and allocation of funds from local budgets

Challenges on the personal level

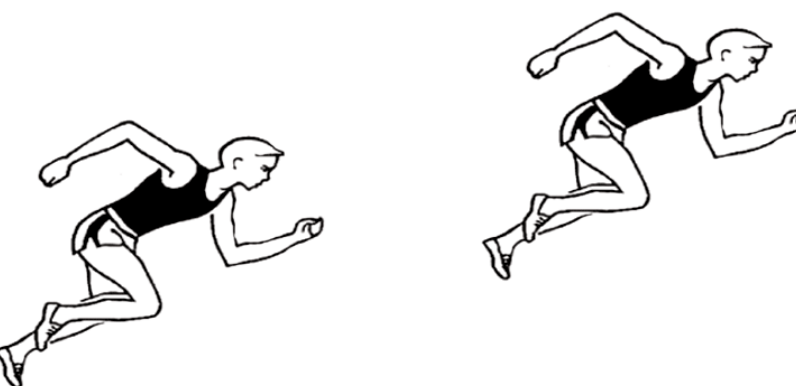
1. High level of dropout (non-admission to HCV treatment) by medical indications
2. Poor adherence to treatment
3. Incompliance with laboratory monitoring of treatment
4. Fear of possible complications, especially psychoemotional

There are 2 ways to address these challenges

The first way is passive acceptance of the situation, a statement of the problem, play the blame game, lack of independent actions and initiative, waiting for the miracle that will change dramatically the situation

Result : disastrous worsening of situation with viral hepatitis C

The most vulnerable and unprotected people will suffer first



Ukraine can demonstrate ways to resolve these issues :

- Introduction of screening testing for HCV into harm reduction programs;
- Social projects on laboratory diagnostics for MARPs;
- Advocacy work;
- Mobilization of community;
- Social programs on treatment of co-infected patients and MARPs
- Social support of HCV treatment by NGOs.

Alliance was the first in Ukraine who provided large-scale HCV screening among MARPS :

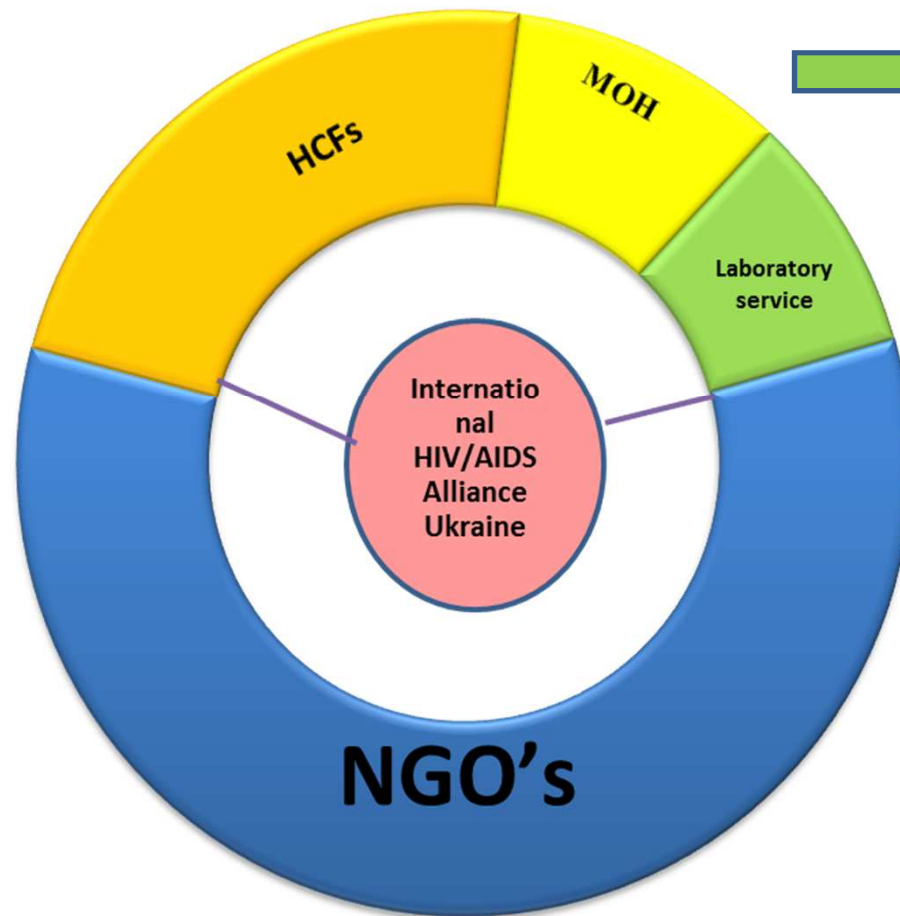
- 84 700 tests (2010 -2012):
- 67% HCV positive among IDUs
- 91% HCV positive among HIV+

2014- 87 NGOs, supported by AU, deliver HCV rapid testing in 27 regions of Ukraine

HCV screening testing



HCV Treatment model based on community mobilization in Ukraine



MOH : working groups,
collaboration with Chief of Infection
diseases Service

HCF (Regional AIDS Centers, Liver
diseases clinics in 25 regions):
treatment, diagnostic, medical
monitoring of complications

Laboratory service :

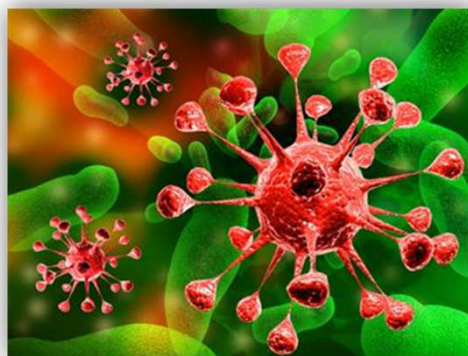
Commercial lab : social project with
50% discount for HCV lab
diagnostics for MARPs

NGOs :

- social support
- psychosocial support
- support for formation of adherence to treatment

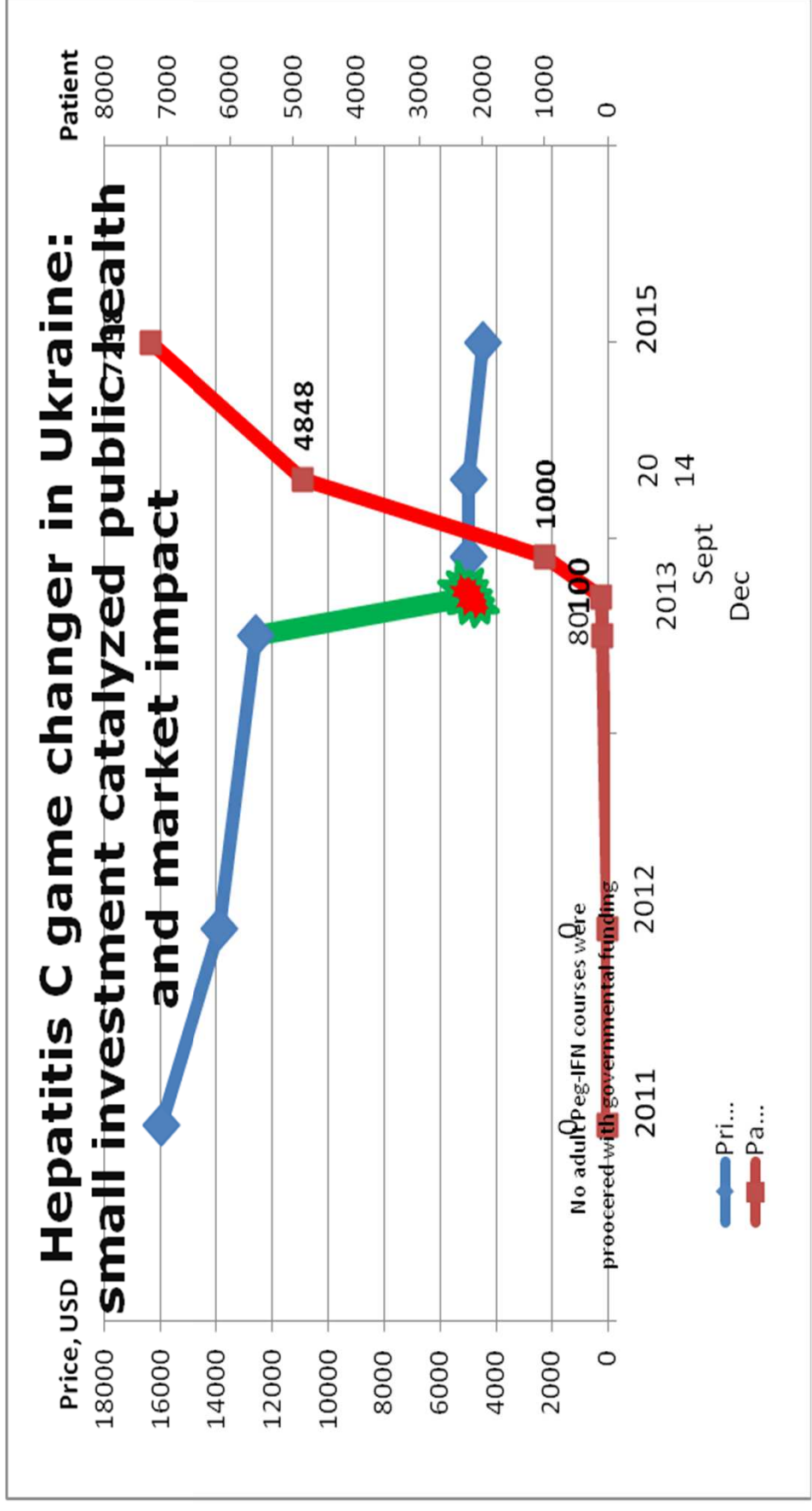
Alliance started HCV treatment in 100 HIV-positive SMT patients

As a result of effective negotiations between Alliance Ukraine and pharmaceutical companies as well as advocacy actions, the price of HCV drug was reduced by 2.5 fold giving an opportunity to use effectively GF funds and start 100 HCV treatment courses (48-weekly course with Pegylated interferon and ribavirin), which has become an incentive to decrease prices at national level



Alliances experience of influence on medical and pharmaceutical market in Ukraine

(Peg-Inf)



Reduced price for HCV laboratory diagnostics by 50% for MARPs

- In collaboration with the partners Alliance Ukraine agreed on 50% discount for HCV lab diagnostics for program clients in 2 commercial laboratory networks countrywide
- To convert into money, we saved over 3 mln UAH (about 300 thousand USD) for MARPs and ensured access to HCV treatment

Outcomes on national level

- National program of HCV was approved in 2013 and its main goal is to provide scaling up of HCV treatment and diagnosis in the country.
- Total funding is 1 760 462,2 UAH.
- In 2014, under this Program drugs were procured for the amount of \$2.6 mln
- National Clinical HCV diagnostic and treatment Guidelines was approved in 2014

Expected outcomes in the nearest future

- Access to effective HCV treatment for all population in Ukraine Patients life saved (especially patients with co-infections);
- Modification of the structure of Ukrainian pharmaceutical market (introduction of a new drug into Ukrainian market, cost reduction for treatment course);
- Inclusion of HCV treatment as a component of integrated care for HIV-positive MARPs; modification of national HCV treatment strategy (amendments and annexes to clinical HCV guidelines for general population);
- Update of current clinical guidelines on HCV treatment in HIV-positive

Thank you for your attention

