

## Egyptian Liver Research Institute and Hospital

NGO – direct patient services, social awareness and continuing medical education

Dakahlia, Egypt  
www.liver-ri.org.eg

### SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

The respondent reviewed 25 items of information that the government of Egypt reported for the 2013 World Health Organization Global Policy Report on the Prevention and Control of Viral Hepatitis in WHO Member States.

✓ The government information was thought to be accurate for **88.0%** of items.

Survey points marked "accurate":  
1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2.1, 2.2, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.5, 4.6, 4.7, 4.8, 4.9, 4.10, 5.1, 5.3, 5.4 and 5.5.

✗ The government information was thought to not be accurate for **8.0%** of items.

Survey points marked "not accurate":  
3.1 and 5.2.

— The respondent took no position on the government information for **4.0%** of items.

Survey points marked "take no position":  
4.4.

The Egyptian Liver Research Institute and Hospital (ELRIAH) did not provide any comments about survey items.

#### Statement from ELRIAH regarding key hepatitis policy issues in Egypt:

Awareness-raising faces many obstacles, some of them due to social factors such as illiteracy, poverty, and ignorance spread in many rural areas in Egypt which leads to wrong practices causing the transmission of hepatitis and increasing its prevalence in Egypt. Other obstacles are governmental, like budgetary issues, and coordination among NGOs as partners in raising community awareness.

On a national scale, lack of health awareness among people of the rural areas, and their overestimating or underestimating such diseases, has many consequences such as the withdrawal of the patient, social trend to ignore the periodical examination, this resulting in the quick silent spread of infection.

#### What needs to change?

- Increasing the number of awareness campaigns all over Egypt, especially rural poor areas.
- Implementation of strict rules on health care units and practitioners not applying infection control guidelines, to eliminate infection prevalence.
- Increasing the budget for treatment and awareness.
- Establishing more partnerships with national NGOs under organised governmental coordination to share duties and responsibilities.

#### What should be the government's role in bringing about these changes? What responsibilities should the government have?

- Increasing the budget set for prevention and treatment.
- Increasing the number of health care organisations providing awareness, treatment, screening, and care.
- Establishing more partnerships with NGO organisation and sharing duties and responsibilities with them.
- Focusing mainly on rural underserved communities.
- Improving awareness through all means of media and communications.

The roles and responsibilities of other stakeholders in the community should be the implementation of the governmental strategies and guidelines side-by-side with supervision and monitoring the wrong practices of health practitioners or organisations or the individuals to take preventive actions, continual improvement, less infection prevalence as a long-term result.

#### Evidence:

A study was conducted through a project titled "Changing Behavioural Aspects Leading to Hepatitis C Endemicity through Developing Educational and Multi-media Tools, Grant No. 1774," that was supported financially by the Science and Technology Development Fund, Egypt.

This study aimed to assess the level of behavioural development in order to create a positive environment for the adoption of the recommended behaviours. The study was conducted over one year from Jan. 2011 until Jan. 2012. Knowledge, attitude and behaviour of 540 hepatitis C patients and 102 of their contacts were assessed and the level of behavioural development was determined. The study revealed that the majority of patients and contacts knew that hepatitis C infection is dangerous with perceived concern for early diagnosis and treatment. More than 75% knew the correct modes of transmission. The assessment showed positive attitudes towards the recommended practices with intention to adopt those practices. Strategies of creating opportunities to continue the recommended behaviours should be adopted together with the reinforcement of social support. (World Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology International Journal of Medical Science and Engineering Vol:7 No:12, 2013.)