

Hepatīta Biedrība

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SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

The respondent reviewed 25 items of information that the government of Latvia 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 **64.0%** of items.

Survey points marked "accurate":
1.1, 1.2, 2.2, 3.1, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 4.1, 4.6,
4.8, 4.9, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4 and 5.5.

✗ The government information was thought to not be accurate for **12.0%** of items.

Survey points marked "not accurate":
1.3, 2.1 and 3.2.

– The respondent took no position on the government information for **24.0%** of items.

Survey points marked "take no position":
4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.7 and 4.10.

Survey comments from Hepatīta Biedrība:

Information reported by government (2012–2013)

✓ To our knowledge, this information is accurate.

1.1 There is no written national strategy or plan that focuses exclusively or primarily on the prevention and control of viral hepatitis.

Civil society respondent comments (2014)

A common strategy for hepatitis C, HIV and sexually transmitted diseases is in development; to be approved this year.

Statement from Hepatīta Biedrība regarding key hepatitis policy issues in Latvia:

The biggest problem is reimbursement for hepatitis C treatment. The state compensates only 75% of drug treatment costs. As the costs are high, the co-payment adds up to EUR 300 per month, which creates a very high barrier for many patients to be cured and further increases risks for virus transfer to other individuals. Untreated patients thus are under great risk of further complications

of cirrhosis and liver cancer. Information from the Infectology Centre of Latvia shows that almost half of patients cannot afford the treatment because of the co-payment. Also, the new generation medicine is not reimbursed and only few patients can afford to pay for themselves and be cured. The reimbursement level should be increased to 100% to prevent the further spread of the disease and cure patients.