

Mauritius

Hep Support*

NGO – hepatitis patient group
Vacoas, Mauritius

SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

The Government of Mauritius did not respond to the World Health Organization survey for the 2013 [Global Policy Report on the Prevention and Control of Viral Hepatitis in WHO Member States](#), and therefore Hep Support could not comment on government information for this report.

The organisation provided the following general statement regarding key hepatitis policy issues in Mauritius:

There is no national response to Hepatitis C.

Hepatitis B is being taken care of – vaccination of newborns, school children, pregnant women, medical professionals, dialysis patients. Nothing as such has been done to deal with Hepatitis C; only blood donors are being screened.

There is no register for any viral hepatitis-positive people. We cannot refer to people diagnosed with viral hepatitis as “patients” – they are just told they are positive and left to themselves. There is no hepatology unit. Doctors are not well informed about viral hepatitis and its management. People coinfecting with HIV and viral hepatitis are not being made aware of the consequences. Nothing is being done to destigmatise people who have viral hepatitis.

The Government should set up a national awareness campaign covering all regions at risk, most firms, students at all levels, paramedicals, and dentists.

Government should involve NGOs to have access to these places, to deliver talks and

screen people for viral hepatitis. Television programmes, radio and written media should also be involved in order to help achieve large-scale awareness.

A central or regional hepatology unit must be set up where NGOs could share the work, where anyone can get any information about viral hepatitis.

Doctors in hospitals and dispensaries should be trained specifically so that they become fully conversant with viral hepatitis and are prepared to refer appropriate cases of viral hepatitis to hepatology units.

Government should accept help from NGOs, from corporate social responsibility providers, through Ministry of Finance, should give more attention to those projects.

The World Health Organization (WHO) should help those involved NGOs to address WHO guidelines.

HepSupport has been celebrating World Hepatitis Day for many years and there are lots of newspaper articles, radio programmes (interactive), and television programmes.

In my opinion, HepSupport has done a lot for awareness and screening – Elisa test, viral load and genotyping. Patients just ask “what else?” Treatment is given to a very few “and selective.” There are no established criteria (to our knowledge) set up for giving treatment to patients suffering from hepatitis C in government hospitals. Only a very few are being chosen each year, and at times no one is chosen.

Private treatment is expensive and is not affordable to most people who have viral hepatitis.

* World Hepatitis Alliance member.