

Philippines

Yellow Warriors Society Philippines

NGO – hepatitis patient group

Baguio, Philippines

<http://yellowwarriors.webs.com/home.htm>

SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

The Government of the Philippines 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 the Yellow Warriors Society Philippines could not comment on government information for this report.

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

Current situation. The Department of Health has a free hepatitis B vaccine programme for infants [birth to age one]. But since the Philippines is an archipelago, bringing vaccine to far-flung provinces poses a challenge. We can see this because of the increase in the prevalence of hepatitis B. We believe strict implementation and monitoring would solve this problem – making sure that vaccine will be available to newborns and making sure that the vaccination regimen will be completed. Yellow Warriors Society Philippines has been attending meetings for us to share our experience and help in the formulation of policies and guidelines.

Awareness-raising. We believe that awareness is still low. Due to stigma, [viral hepatitis] carriers do not talk about this topic. More needs to be done if we want a higher level of awareness. A solution is networking with organisations just like what Yellow Warriors Society Philippines is doing now. Also, more informational materials are needed. Yellow Warriors Society Philippines as an organisation will always be ready to accept hepatitis carriers and enlighten their families and close friends.

Evidence-based policy. The government should use its resources to create a policy. Proper monitoring is required in order to pinpoint high-risk areas and assess how effectively programmes are implemented.

Prevention of transmission. We believe vaccination is the key. Unfortunately, vaccine is only free to infants from birth to age one. The government should expand this policy and also give free vaccine to adults. Again, an information drive would help in preventing transmission.

Screening, care and treatment. We still need to work more on this. Unlike in other countries where health care is provided for viral hepatitis carriers, here it is not included in health care. We hope we can convince the government to help hepatitis B and hepatitis C carriers by at least subsidising the medicines.