

Portugal

Portuguese Board of Hepatology

Medical society
Lisbon, Portugal

SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

The Government of Portugal 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 Portuguese Board of Hepatology could not comment on government information for this report.

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

National coordination. There is no national coordination. The Ministry of Health has no organisation to deal specifically with hepatitis. The need for a strategy and plan has been recognised.

Awareness-raising, partnerships and resource mobilisation. There has been a lot of situations of social and national awareness pushing the government to deal with the problem of hepatitis: the Portuguese Parliament has issued a national resolution, all the media, national scientific liver associations, patient NGOs, etc.

Evidence-based policy and data for action. There are sufficient data to call action (see sources below). Several national and international publications with Portuguese data. Hepatitis C is killing around 1,000 persons per year, versus around 500 for HIV. The investment of medication for HIV is 50 times more than for hepatitis C. Government has taken three years to approve only boceprevir. Telaprevir is not approved. Some hospitals have paid the treatments, others not.

Prevention of transmission. Good programme for reducing the sharing of needles and for drug addiction at national level, but with problems due to budget reductions.

Screening, care and treatment. There is a national and governmental barrier to treatment access.

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