

Sustained advocacy on TRIPS flexibilities and HCV in Malaysia

DESCRIPTION

- Strategic advocacy funded by UNITAID/Coalition Plus on TRIPS flexibilities helped secure generics access.
- The annual number of new infections in low- and middle-income countries is still higher than the number of people treated and cured.
- Since 2014, new oral DAAs have transformed HCV treatment, making prescribing safer and simpler. Cure rates of at least 90% have been reported after 12 weeks of treatment, regardless of HIV status, stage of liver disease or HCV treatment history.
- Expanding HCV treatment is a critical component of a comprehensive response to hepatitis prevention and control.

PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACT

- Data from the MOH showed -3, 393 new cases in 2016.
- However, according to an estimation model developed by McDonald – the prevalence is 2.5% or about 500,000 people.
- The number of treatment is limited only 500 – 550 per year (pegylated-interferon).
- Many patients with HIV co-infection are treated for HIV and other opportunistic diseases such as TB, Hep A, B, pneumonia, meningitis and etc but HCV was not treated

WHY IS THIS INNOVATIVE?

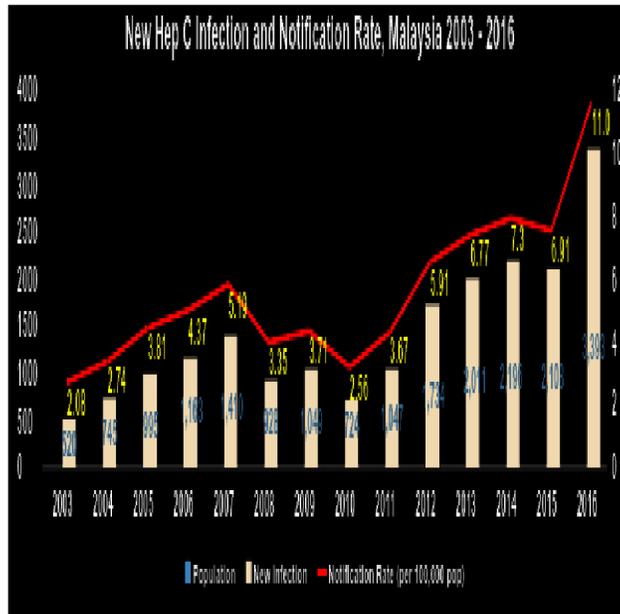
The project utilised sustained advocacy informed by evidence on TRIPS flexibilities to create an environment that would facilitate a government use licence and access to generics.

Strategic Direction of WHO

- 1) Strategic Information - Using the Mc Donald's study to estimate the number of patients in the country, almost 500, 000 people.
- 2) Equity- Strengthening and empowering community based organisations, meetings with government agencies to provide information and sensitization on issues revolving around Hep C among the parliamentarians.
- 3) Sustainability- Moving forward, it is essential for the country to have better patents laws that are pro public health and advocacy for fixed allocation in the national health budget for HCV.
- 4) Innovation – DNDi trials offers ravidasvir + sofosbuvir to treat HCV patients- giving more options to existing market

STRATEGIC MULTI-NGO ADVOCACY ON COMPULSORY LICENCES

- TWN, Malaysian AIDS Council, and MTAAG+ & DNDi Malaysia
- Gilead was unwilling to go below \$12,000 for a complete course of 12-weeks treatment
- 17 August 2016 – meeting with Pharmacy Practice & Development Department, MOH to enlist our support, lobby for the GUL or CL, and provide data on Brazilian, Ukrainian, and Chinese progress on TRIPS flexibilities to access sofosbuvir.
- 24th of November 2016, roundtable discussion was held in the Parliament building, and was chaired by the Deputy Minister of Health, Dato' Seri Hilmi Yahya to discuss GUL/CLs.
- Fourth quarter of 2016, Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi) had begun a feasibility trial with generic sofosbuvir and ravidasvir as a pan-genotypic regimen



Estimated that at least 453 000 people are infected with hepatitis C virus (HCV)

MTAAG+ Advocacy Too kit and community based testings	TWN Briefs workshop letters to NPRA	Meetings with government agencies and situational report	Parliamentary round table	DNDi trials

CONCLUSIONS

- Compulsory licence endorsed by Cabinet on 4 August 2017 – enabling domestic manufacture of generics and availability in government hospitals.
- Increase the rate of diagnostics among baby boomers – public campaign
- Strengthen the capacity of POs on HCV issues
- Strengthen the linkage of HCV continuum service – include in MOH & MAC indicators
- Linkage of private methadone clients to current HCV testing

REFERENCES

- McDonald SA, Mohamed R et al. Bridging the data gaps in the epidemiology of hepatitis C virus infection in Malaysia using multi-parameter evidence synthesis. BMC Infectious Diseases 2014; 14: 564-571
- World Health Organization. Global health sector strategy on viral hepatitis 2016-2021. Towards ending viral hepatitis.[Internet] [cited 2017 Sept 26]; Available from: <http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/246177/1/WHO-HIV-2016.06-eng.pdf>

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