



# PRINCIPLE 1

## DISCUSSION GUIDE: THE ELIMINATION OF VIRAL HEPATITIS

This guide has been developed to remind you of key messages and data to enable effective conversations with peers and colleagues around the elimination of viral hepatitis.

### WHAT EXACTLY DOES 'ELIMINATION OF VIRAL HEPATITIS' MEAN?

The World Health Organization's (WHO) "Global Health Sector Strategy on viral hepatitis" called for the elimination of viral hepatitis as a public health threat by 2030, which is defined as a 65% reduction in mortality and a 90% reduction in incidence compared with the 2015 baseline.<sup>1,2</sup> The 194 Member States of WHO have committed to this in May 2016.<sup>2</sup> Efforts are focused on hepatitis B and hepatitis C, which are responsible for 96% of all hepatitis mortality.<sup>2</sup>

### IS ELIMINATION OF VIRAL HEPATITIS FEASIBLE?

There is good evidence that eliminating viral hepatitis is technically feasible and achievable – as detailed in the 2017 Global Hepatitis Report – but will require a comprehensive public health approach to scale-up.<sup>2</sup>

### WHAT ARE THE 2030 TARGETS?

The key targets for elimination are:

- Hepatitis B vaccination (90% coverage of three doses of hepatitis B vaccine)
- Hepatitis B PMTCT (prevention of mother-to-child transmission; 90% coverage)
- Blood Safety (100% screening)
- Injection Safety (0% unsafe injections)
- Harm Reduction (Access to 300 clean syringes/year/person who injects drugs)
- Testing and diagnostic services (90% of hepatitis B and hepatitis C diagnosed)
- Treatment (80% of hepatitis B- and hepatitis C- diagnosed treated)

### WHAT ARE THE STEPS TO ACHIEVING THESE TARGETS?

Elimination can be achieved through sufficient service coverage of five synergistic prevention and treatment interventions:<sup>2</sup>

1. Immunization against hepatitis B
2. PMTCT of hepatitis B
3. Blood and injection safety
4. Prevention of transmission of hepatitis B and hepatitis C among persons who inject drugs through comprehensive harm reduction services
5. Testing and treatment

The following **levers for change** are needed to make necessary changes happen:

**Education • Advocacy • Funding • Political will**  
• **Anti-stigma and discrimination**

### WHAT IS A NOHEP MEDICAL VISIONARY?

NOhep Medical Visionaries are medical professionals committed to the elimination of viral hepatitis by 2030. They:

- Maximise the role of medical professionals in improving hepatitis diagnosis, linkage-to-care, treatment and chronic care
- Make a real difference to elimination efforts through bold and innovative actions (be that at a local, regional, country or international level) that advance progress and bring about change
- Actively engage peers, other medical professionals, budget holders, patients, the public and political decision-makers to advocate for change

For more information visit: [www.nohep.org/visionaries](http://www.nohep.org/visionaries)

### HOW CAN OTHERS GET INVOLVED?

All medical professionals can play a direct or supporting role in the elimination of viral hepatitis. For more information and ways in which anyone can help, refer to 'The role of medical professionals in viral hepatitis elimination', provided as part of [The NOhep Guide for Medical Professionals](#).

1. World Health Organization, Global Health Sector Strategy on Viral Hepatitis, 2016–2021. June 2016.

2. World Health Organization, Global Hepatitis Report, 2017.

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### For more information on NOhep

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