**HEPATITIS C**

**DEFINITION**
Hepatitis C is a liver disease caused by the hepatitis C virus (HCV), the virus can cause both acute and Chronic hepatitis infection, ranging in severity to a mild illness lasting a few weeks to chronic liver diseases, liver cancer and in some cases death.

**GLOBAL HEALTH BURDEN**
Viral hepatitis is found worldwide. However, there is a higher prevalence in North Africa and Eastern & Central Asia.

- 3 million to 4 million new cases each year.
- 350,000 to 500,000 people die each year from Hepatitis C.
- 180 million infected worldwide.

**THE SILENT EPIDEMIC: EVOLUTION OF THE DISEASE**
Due to the large number of people unaware that they are chronically infected with HCV the identification of new advanced liver diseases will continue to increase as people progress in their disease and more screening is undertaken.

- Infection: 80% of people do not exhibit any symptoms following initial infection.
- Chronic Disease: 60-85% of people infected with HCV will develop chronic infection.
- Cirrhosis: 15-30% of people with chronic HCV infection will develop Cirrhosis.

**TREATMENT INNOVATION**
60 to 90% of HCV infections can be cured. New treatments offer better cure rates, reduced treatment duration and fewer side effects.

**FROM SCREENING TO CARE**
Too often, patients who test positive are not referred to appropriate treatment and care.

- Only 3-5% of patients receive treatments even in high income countries.

**MAIN ROUTES OF TRANSMISSION**
- Unsafe Injections
- Inadequate Sterilization of Medical Equipment
- Blood Transfusion
- Sexual Transmission

**PATH TO HCV MANAGEMENT**

**SUPPORT RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT**
There are currently 20 candidate products in the pipeline.

**INCREASE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION**
3 out of 4 persons are unaware they are infected with HCV.

**IMPROVE SCREENING AVAILABILITY**
Only 1 in 3 countries provides testing accessible to all.

**DEVELOP POLICIES & ALLOCATE RESOURCES**
Only 1 in 3 countries has a national strategy to combat HCV.

**HEPATITIS C**
HCV is the no.1 cause of Liver Cancer.

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