

CONVERGENCE FOR EFFECTIVE SERVICE DELIVERY ON VIRAL HEPATITIS FOR THE MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES – MANIPUR

NEEDS/RATIONAL

National Viral Hepatitis Control Program (NVHCP) was roll out in the State of Manipur since 28th July 2019 by operationalizing two Model Treatment Centres (MTC) at two Medical Colleges Viz. RIMS and JNIMS.

On 28th July 2019, on the day of Observation of World Hepatitis Day 2019, 2 MTCs under NVHCP were inaugurated. Treatment for Hepatitis C were initiated at the 2 MTCs and subsequently by 2020 all the 16 (sixteen) districts has atleast one Treatment Centre in each districts. From 2021 onwards Hepatitis B treatment was also initiated at 2 (two) MTC of RIMS and JNIMS. As coordination and collaboration with CBOs/ NGOs and MSACS is the need of the hour to be able to reach out to the HRGs who are considered as vulnerable group belonging to marginalize community, an initiative was taken up together with the MACS and NGOs/CBO (CoNE)

In Manipur, in one of the studies done among the People Who Injects Drugs (PWID) have found that 43% of them have exposure to Hepatitis C. Therefore, this marginalized Community group needs the utmost and urgent care. As PWID are lacking in health seeking behavior and also the duration from screening to diagnosis and then treatment which usually takes two weeks approximately, many of them do not turned up to access the services which is available free of cost in the health facilities. The prison inmates also needs special care as it is a sensitive issue and it has to be handled carefully.

MODEL DESCRIPTION

Under NVHCP, screening, diagnosis and treatment is made available free of cost however to reach out to the marginalized communities like HRGs and jail inmates, NVHCP needs to work together with the existing NGO/CBOs and MSACS as they are the frontrunner who have been working for these groups much earlier than NVHCP.

1. During covid-19 pandemic i.e from April to December 2020 with the help of CBO DAA were directly delivered at the DTC/OST centre. Also 15 patients from I/E, I/W and Ukhrul were managed to trace and bring them back to continued the treatment at the Treatment Centre.
2. With CBO - CoNE (Community Network for Empowerment) a pilot project on Hepatitis C was conducted with the titled 'SAME DAY TEST and TREAT for HEPATITIS C among PWIDs' starting from 12th November 2021 to 21 January 2022. The project was done at 23 Drug Rehabilitation Centres in four Valley Districts in Manipur. Hepatitis B screening were also done in the same group and the clients who were found HBsAg, non-reactive were given Hepatitis B vaccine.
3. Under the above mentioned project - 523 screened for Hepatitis B and C. Out of these 27 clients were found reactive for HBsAg, and linked to MTC JNIMS. Eligible 167 clients were initiated treatment at MTC, JNIMS and 141 were cured, 18 failed the treatment, 2 expired and 6 did not turned up for SVR12.
4. For Prison Inmates, in collaboration with MSACS partnered TI NGOs i.e NIRVANA FOUNDATION, I/W from 22nd April 2022 onwards Hepatitis Screening Program with National Viral Hepatitis Control Program in the Central Jail Sajiwa have started. Every Friday screening for Hepatitis B, C, HIV and Syphilis are done. It is an ongoing process. 1239 including spouses were screened for Hep B & C. Out of this 94 were found positive for Hep C and 61 eligible

patients linked to MTC, JNIMS for free treatment and five were found HBsAg Positive and one eligible patient linked to MTC, JNIMS.

5. From 7th July ISHTH campaign has started and it is still continued.
6. From 11th September 2023 MACS Partner TI NGO I.e Kirpa Society of I/W has started screening of HRGs and vaccination for Hep B among the IDUs, every two days in a week. Total target is 600 IDUs out of which 31 active HRGs client have been tested. 6 clients were found Hep B positive and & were found to be Hep C positive. All of them are linked to MTC RIMS and JNIMS. 25 clients have been given Hep B vaccine 1st and 2nd Dose till date.

CAPACITY BUILDING

- Hands on Training of 3 Jail Doctors and one staff Nurse were done at MTC JNIMS
- ANMs/ GNM and MOs of 54 MACS partnered TI NGOs were trained for initiating screening of Hepatitis B and C at their respective TI NGOs under MSACS

HUMAN RESOURCE

Manpower for screening of Hep B & C along with vaccination is being provided by the CBOs and TI NGOs of MACS for the collaborative initiatives and joined monitoring is done.

EVIDENCE OF EFFECTIVENESS

- The pilot project shows all the eligible patients could be treated without any loss to follow up.
- Doorstep service with the help of MACS partner TI NGOs provides maximum screening, diagnosis and treatment intervention on time for the Prison inmates.
- During the covid time help from the CBOs was very effective to make the patient to continue treatment..

COST

- All the required screening kits, diagnosis and treatment were provided under the NVHCP. Therefore no extra budgets were required in the program implemented collaborating with CBO and MSACS.

AREA of COLLABORATION

- NVHCP provides' Hepatitis B and C RDKs for screening, viral load tests and DAA for treatment. MACS and CBOs supports manpower for screening of Hep B & C and follow up of the clients even after released from the jail and drug rehabilitation centres.

LESSON LEARNT and CHALLENGES

- Viral Hepatitis especially Hepatitis C is a major issue in the state of Manipur as it involves particularly PWID. The collaborative measures taken up together is really able to reach out to the target group who are in need of the service.
- All the jail inmates also got a chance to be counselled along with HIV and Hepatitis Counselling (about safe injection, safe sex, etc.) in addition to the screening, diagnosis and treatment of Viral Hepatitis.
- With the help of CBO, reaching out to the de-addiction centres is a very important initiative which is quite fruitful as far as Hepatitis B, C, screening, vaccination for Hepatitis B, treatment and follow up for the patients.

WAY FORWARD

- All the ANMs/ GNMs of 54 MACS partnered TI-NGOs of Manipur were given training on screening for Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C. Therefore, screening for Hep B & C and vaccination of Hep B for the HRGs I,e all the clients of 54 MACS partnered TI- NGOs will be done at the earliest at their respective TI-NGOs. And those clients found reactive will be linked to the MTCs and TCs of their districts for further management.
- The Medical Officers of Jail and ART Centres given training so that initiation Hep B & C treatment may be started.



Inauguration of ISHTH campaign at Central Jail, Imphal by Commissioner (H&FW)



Awareness cum Screening of Hep C & B with CBOs at Central Jail, Imphal



Join visit of Central Jail, Sajiwa Imphal (MACS & NVHCP)



Awareness cum Screening of Hep C & B with CBOs at rehabilitation Centre



Join visit at PPTCT, JNIMS (MACS & NVHCP)



First Day of initiation of Hep B & C screening, Vaccination of Hep B at MACS partnered TI NGO.