

Framework of Action Plan

The Action Plan adopts the **four strategic axes**, as described in WHO framework for global action: **awareness, surveillance, prevention** and **treatment**.

Strategy 1: Raising Awareness

Launch awareness campaign for the general population

- Telephone hotline, internet, printed materials, health talks, roving exhibition, billboards at bus stops and health promotion activities in Kwai Tsing District Health Centre, etc.



Provide professional training

- Enhance the capacity of healthcare workers to deliver quality care to patients with hepatitis

Educate at-risk populations

- People who inject drugs, pregnant women with chronic hepatitis B, patients and their service providers

Build supportive environment

- Foster an environment for effective management of viral hepatitis cases



Strategy 2: Enhancing Surveillance

Conduct ongoing surveillance

- Notification system for acute viral hepatitis
- Prevalence assessment for chronic viral hepatitis

Develop local indicators

- Monitor and evaluate the viral hepatitis elimination strategies

Strategy 3: Promoting Prevention

Universal screening for pregnant women and neonatal vaccination for hepatitis B

- Continue the preventive measures for MTCT implemented since 1988
 - Screen pregnant women for hepatitis B during each pregnancy
 - Give 3-dose hepatitis B vaccination to every baby
 - Administer hepatitis B immunoglobulin within 24 hours after birth for babies born to HBV-infected mothers



Use antivirals for preventing MTCT of HBV

- Test viral load for pregnant women infected with HBV
- Provide a treatment option to use antivirals for pregnant women with high viral load in the third trimester for further minimising the chance of MTCT
- Provide long-term management of the liver condition for pregnant women infected with HBV



Post-vaccination serologic testing

- Test for hepatitis B antibody and infection status after 3-dose vaccination for babies born to HBV-infected mothers
- Assess the need for revaccination
- Enable early management for HBV-infected babies



Prevent healthcare-related transmission of HBV and HCV

- Continue current effective blood safety strategies
- Uphold infection control standards

Reduce the risk and disease burden in vulnerable populations

- Intensify condom programming
- Undertake harm reduction approach

Strategy 4: Expanding Access to Treatment

Enhancement of treatment for hepatitis B

- Enhancement in the Hospital Authority (HA) on hepatitis B management in four areas



Laboratory



Equipment



Drug



Model of care

- Explore strategies in the long run to sustain and expand the service provision for hepatitis in both public and private sectors

Expansion of access to direct-acting antivirals (DAA) for HCV

- DAA is effective in curing HCV infection with minimal side effects
- Expand the HA Drug Formulary indication for DAA therapy on all patients, regardless of their disease severity, in a stepwise manner



Micro-elimination of HCV infection

- Screen and treat patients on renal dialysis
- Screen and treat HIV-positive patients

Promotion of HCV testing in people who inject drugs

- Provide specific educational information about HCV transmission
- Identify testing options and algorithms for carrying out HCV testing

Hong Kong Viral Hepatitis Action Plan

2020 - 2024

Highlights

For the full version of the **Hong Kong Viral Hepatitis Action Plan 2020 - 2024**, please visit:



衛生署
Department of Health



食物及衛生局
Food and Health Bureau



醫院管理局
HOSPITAL
AUTHORITY

Hong Kong Viral Hepatitis Action Plan 2020 – 2024

The Government recognises the public health threat posed by viral hepatitis. To provide a comprehensive strategy for reducing the public health burden, the Steering Committee on Prevention and Control of Viral Hepatitis (SCVH) formulated the *Hong Kong Viral Hepatitis Action Plan 2020 - 2024 (The Action Plan)*.

The Action Plan is a milestone towards significantly reducing the burden of chronic hepatitis B and hepatitis C, with the ultimate vision to render Hong Kong free of chronic viral hepatitis.

Vision

Hong Kong will be a place where new viral hepatitis infections have ceased, and where everyone with chronic viral hepatitis has access to effective and affordable care and treatment.

Goals

- Reduce transmission of viral hepatitis
- Reduce morbidity and mortality due to viral hepatitis

Local Situation of Hepatitis B and C

7.2%

of population (~540 000 people) infected with **hepatitis B virus (HBV)**

0.3%

of population (~22 000 people) infected with **hepatitis C virus (HCV)**

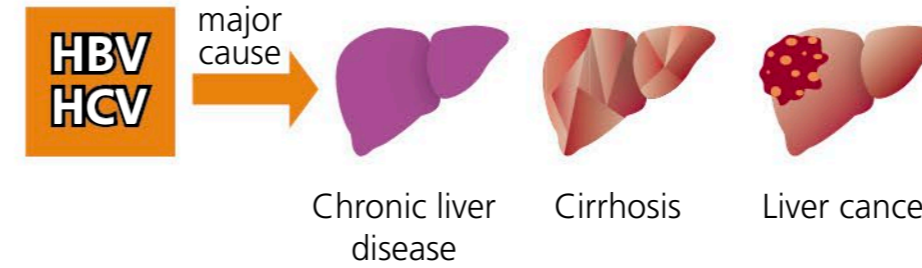
1 552

people died of **liver cancer** in 2017



About Hepatitis B and C

Many people with hepatitis B or C are **asymptomatic** and unaware of their infection.



Route of Transmission

HBV and HCV can be transmitted through contact with contaminated blood or body fluid.

Major Route of Transmission



HBV: Mother-to-child transmission (MTCT)



HCV: Injecting drugs

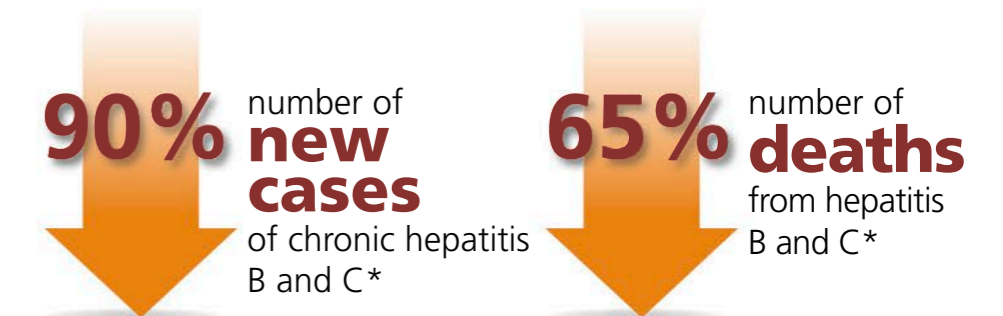
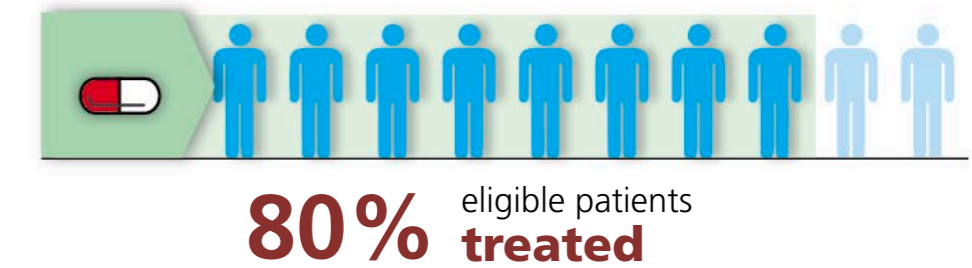
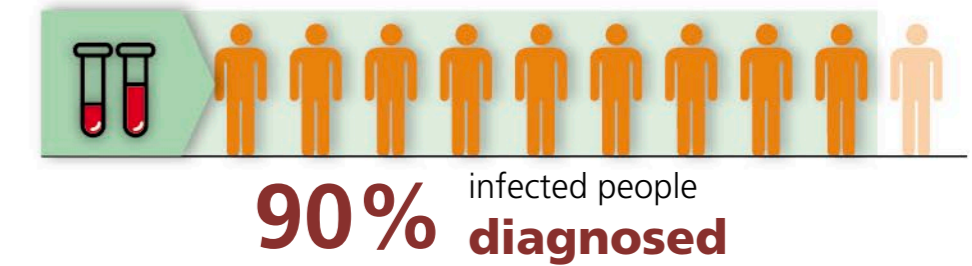
Vaccine and Treatment

	Hepatitis B	Hepatitis C
Vaccine	Safe and effective vaccine available	Not available
Treatment	Regular monitoring and consider antiviral drug	Curative treatment available

Effective treatment of hepatitis B and C can reduce risk of cirrhosis, liver failure and liver cancer.

Targets by 2030

Aligning with the *Global health sector strategy on viral hepatitis 2016 - 2021* by World Health Organization (WHO), we will work to eliminate viral hepatitis as a major public health threat by 2030:



*As compared with baseline number in 2015