

**HEPATITIS PREVENTION & CONTROL PROGRAM SINDH
(CHIEF MINISTER'S INITIATIVE)
@ DIRECTORATE GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES SINDH HYDERABAD
PHONE NO. 022-9239298 FAX NO. 9240100. Email hpcp. Sindh @ yahoo. Com**

CHIEF MINISTER'S INITIATIVE FOR HEPATITIS FREE SINDH

Viral Hepatitis in Sindh

Viral Hepatitis B and C prevalence is on a steady rise in Pakistan. Extrapolation of the figures gives us a staggering number of 1.5 million chronic carriers of Hepatitis B and 1.8 million chronic carriers of Hepatitis C in Sindh. Hepatitis Delta is possibly the most severe form of chronic viral hepatitis of humans. The large pocket of Hep-D has been identified in Kambar and Larkana districts of the province. The estimated quantum of the diseases only in Kambar is more than 1000 patients.

Empirical evidence suggests that Sindh may have disease burden more than the current estimates. Reasons being the deepened poverty, statutory ambiguity in certain laws, health practices of public & professionals and lack of universal access to health care.

MAJOR RISK FACTORS FOR DISEASE SPREAD

- Unsafe Injection Delivery,
- Transfusion of un-screened blood and blood products,
- From Injected Mother to new born child,
- Sexual contact with carriers,
- Reuse of Blades by the barbers,
- Use of un-sterilized surgical and dental instruments,
- Use of injected needle/Instruments for nose/ear piercing,

MEASURES TAKEN TO COMBAT THE SPREADING OF HEPATITIS

Due to the enormity of the task, rising trends of the disease and non-availability of sufficient resources, a fresh initiative on part of the Provincial Government was needed, and adopting a pro-poor approach the “CHIEF MINISTER'S INITIATIVE FOR “HEPATITIS FREE SINDH” is launched within a framework of following five broad strategic areas:

1. Preventing the acute infections
2. Addressing the chronic infections
3. Raising the public awareness
4. Changing the policy environment
5. Health System Strengthening

“CHIEF MINISTER’S INITIATIVE FOR ‘HEPATITIS FREE SINDH’

Total financial Allocation for the Project: 2.35 Billion Rs in 03 years

VISION

TO MAKE THE PROVINCE OF SINDH HEPATITIS FREE.

GOAL

TO STOP THE ONGOING SPREAD OF VIRAL HEPATITIS B, C & D AT ITS CURRENT STATE AND ADDRESS THE CHRONIC CARRIERS

PROGRAM TARGETS.

S. No	Strategic Area	Targets
1	Preventing the Acute Injections	<u>To vaccinate against Hepatitis B</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 42,000,00 newborns;• 675,000 general population,• 45,000 High Risk population• 15,000 jail inmates.
2	Addressing the chronic infections	<u>To provide treatment to</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 50000 patients of Hepatitis C• 6000 patients of Hepatitis B• To provide the ELISA screening facility at Taluka Hospital level.• To provide ICT screening facility up to the RHC level• Establishing 3 PCR Laboratories• Training of Medical and Paramedical Staff on Hepatitis
3	Raising The Public Awareness	<u>Raise the existing level of Public knowledge about Hepatitis by:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Awareness walks.• Awareness seminars at District level• Community meetings at mohalla/village level.• Print and Electronic Media• Through Vinyl Posters/Floats on Public Transport• Hoardings/Banners/Posters• Awareness sessions with Barbers, GPs and other high risk groups.
4	Changing The Policy Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identifying the ambiguous statutes regarding communicable disease control.• Drafting anit-quackery law against other unethical medical practices.
5	Health System Strengthening	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developing Pertinent Workforce• To enhance the surveillance and epidemic response capacity at provincial and district level.• To strengthen the health carte delivery system in the prisons for hepatitis prevention and control.• Continuous monitoring and supervision of program intervention.

“CHIEF MINISTER’S INITIATIVE FOR “HEPATITIS FREE SINDH”

ACHIEVEMENTS

- The Program implementation unit established at Office of Director General Health Services Sindh Hyderabad.
- Procurement of medicine, vaccine and logistics is completed and the supply of the medicines and vaccines to the districts is started from January 21, 2009.
- The Hep-B vaccine is supplied to the districts.
- Free vaccination camps held for school students and general population at the districts in the province
- The required medicine for all registered Hepatitis B & C patients have been provided to the districts and treatment of more than 10,000 patient’s have been started in all 23 districts of the province. List of District wise number of patients annexed.
- All District Headquarter Hospitals are equipped and declared as sentinel sites for diagnosis and treatment of Hepatitis patients. Prominent sign boards are installed at main gates of the sentinel sites for public guidance.
- At Karachi, four sentinel sites are established at Sindh Govt Hospital Saudabad, Abbasi Shaheed Hospital, Government Qatar Hospital Korangi, 4 and Civil Hospital, Karachi).
- At Hyderabad, three sentinel sites are established at Government Shah Bhattai Hospital Latifabad, Government Hospital Paretabad and Government Hospital Qasimabad.
- The Memo of Understandings have been signed with Vice Chancellors of Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences Jamshoro, and Dow University of Medical Sciences Karachi, for PCR lab investigation of non-affording patients and jail inmates. The PCR lab investigations of the eligible patients are being performed at both labs since January, 22,2009.
- About 1000 patients from general public are so far investigated for PCR laboratory test.
- 800 jail inmates in the prisons of the provinces are investigated for PCR lab test, the PCR tests for rest of the Hep-B/C suspects in under process.
- Treatment of 166 eligible Hep-B&C positive jail inmates started in the prisons of the Province.
- A cold store for storage of medicine and vaccine established at Directorate General Health Services, Hyderabad.
- Awareness activities have been started in all districts, including; walks, print and electronic media briefings, seminars, briefing to district assemblies, publishing and distribution of awareness posters/pamphlets.
- The sessions with the high risk groups, like barbers, medical practitioners Hepatitis Case Management, Infection Control Practices and Hospital Waste Management.
- The names of sentinel sites and focal persons along with phone numbers are published in the leading news papers for information to the general public.

**HEPATITIS PREVENTION & CONTROL PROGRAM SINDH
(CHIEF MINISTER'S INITIATIVE)
@ DIRECTORATE GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES SINDH HYDERABAD
PHONE NO. 022-9239298 FAX NO. 9240100. Email hpcp. Sindh @ yahoo. Com**

**DISTRICT WISE NUMBER OF HEPATITIS PATIENTS, REGISTERED FOR
TREATMENT TILL FEBRUARY 10, 2009.**

S. No	District	Hep-B Patients	Hep-C Patients
1	Matiyari	10	150
2	Shaheed Benazirabad	100	600
3	Sanghar	30	600
4	Mirpurkhas	40	510
5	Tando allahyar	80	400
6	Tando Muhammad Khan	20	220
7	Badin	80	520
8	Thatta	100	440
9	Naushahroferoze	105	430
10	Khairpur	115	650
11	Sukkur	60	310
12	Ghotki	105	600
13	Shikarpur	120	700
14	Jacobabad	80	400
15	Kashmore	30	150
16	Hyderabad	80	770
17	Dadu	90	460
18	Larkana	70	610
19	Kambar	120	450
20	Karachi	50	620
21	Umerkot	25	250
22	Tharparkar	40	210
23	Jamshoro	80	400
	Total	1630	10450