



R E S O L U T I O N

REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR
THE WESTERN PACIFIC

COMITE RÉGIONAL DU
PACIFIQUE OCCIDENTAL

WPR/RC66.R1
14 October 2015

VIRAL HEPATITIS

The Regional Committee,

Recalling resolution WPR/RC54.R3 establishing the goal to reduce chronic hepatitis B seroprevalence to less than 1% among 5 year olds; resolution WPR/RC56.R8 establishing the interim milestone of less than 2% by 2012; and resolution WPR/RC64.R5 setting 2017 as the deadline to achieve the goal of less than 1%;

Acknowledging the success of the Region as a whole in achieving the less than 2% prevalence milestone and of 12 Member States verified as having achieved the less than 1% goal;

Recognizing that the Western Pacific Region is home to a quarter of the world's population but nearly 40% of global deaths from hepatitis; and millions of people in the Region continue to live with chronic hepatitis B and C infection and are at high risk of cirrhosis and liver cancer;

Noting that living with chronic hepatitis B and C results in high financial cost for individuals, the health sector and society at large;

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Welcoming the opportunity to contribute to reducing the impact of chronic hepatitis B and C infections and related liver disease with new, highly effective medicines that can treat hepatitis B and cure hepatitis C;

Noting that these medicines are not yet available or affordable to most people living with chronic hepatitis in the Region;

Emphasizing the need for comprehensive and coordinated action to effectively address viral hepatitis through both prevention and treatment approaches, based on the local epidemiological context,

1. ENDORSES the *Regional Action Plan for Viral Hepatitis in the Western Pacific 2016–2020*;
2. URGES Member States:
 - (1) to develop national action plans for viral hepatitis, based on the local epidemiological context, building on existing human resources and health systems infrastructure;
 - (2) to establish or strengthen surveillance systems;
 - (3) to address the high cost and lack of availability of hepatitis medicines and diagnostics as a priority to improve access to treatments and cures;
 - (4) to mobilize and invest technical and financial resources to address viral hepatitis;
3. REQUESTS the Regional Director:
 - (1) to provide technical support for developing and implementing national action plans for viral hepatitis and promote better understanding of the burden of viral hepatitis and its consequences in Member States;

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- (2) to disseminate and provide technical support to implement the *Regional Action Plan for Viral Hepatitis in the Western Pacific 2016–2020*;
- (3) to report periodically on progress in implementing the *Regional Action Plan for Viral Hepatitis in the Western Pacific 2016–2020*.

Fourth meeting, 14 October 2015