

FURTHERING THE HEPATITIS C DIAGNOSIS PROCESS TO EASY ACCESS AND COMPREHENSIVE COVERAGE.

Authors:

Lintong J¹, Wichitchan W¹, Sripamong J¹,

¹Thai AIDS Treatment Action Group (TTAG)

Background:

In Thailand, initial screening for HCV is not readily available to all populations, there are no clear guidelines for the reimbursement of hospital fees. A clear census of people with HCV cannot be established if the infected person does not have access to screening and treatment.

Description of model of care/intervention:

We help those at-risk and the general population in accessing HCV screenings through three methods:

1. Local population, we create forums consisting of staff from the district and provincial hospitals, drop-in drug users, villagers from the community and the National Health Security Office (NHSO) to assess the needs within the patient referral policy and NHSO reimbursement to local hospitals. The forum also serves as an outreach to the general population.
2. Policy brief and report on the HCV - analyzing problems within government performance and policies and content of the law and policy; the final report was distributed to policy makers nationwide.
3. Implementation - As a result of policy briefs, and forums we discussed with policymakers through formal meetings, direct talks and also by organized activities.

Effectiveness:

After the policy brief the government sectors has acknowledged the document and reviewed the laws related to HCV. The initial screening test for HCV that was available only for HIV patients is now available to the public.

Conclusion and next steps:

Through learning and analyzing methods from other countries on efficient RNA tests, we are working on submitting suggested strategy alterations to policy makers. In order to ensure that all tests are fully reimbursed by the NHSO.