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Person -centred and integrated healthcare and harm reduction services for people living with and affected by HIV, hepatitis C and tuberculosis in eastern Europe and central Asia

The simplified HCV integrated management model in OAT clinics in Ukraine



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POLICY



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Conflict of interest disclosure

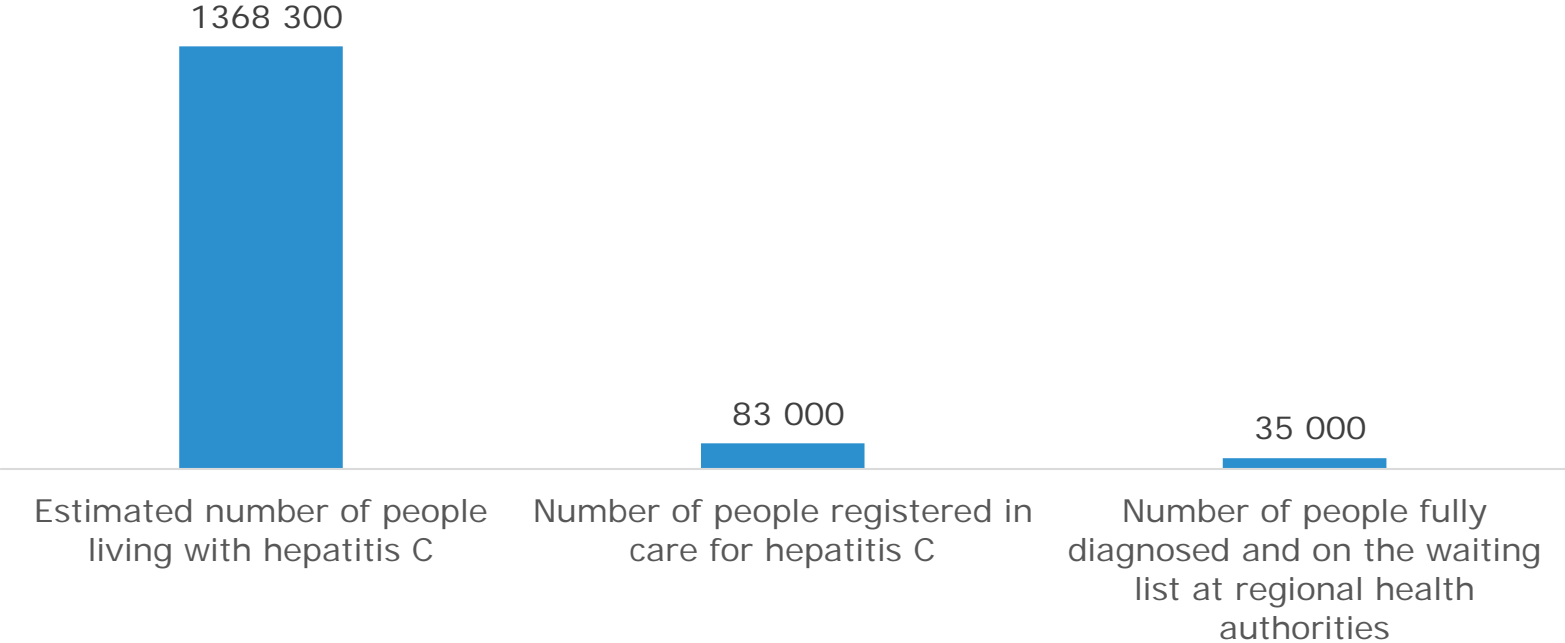


I have no conflict of interest to declare.

Hepatitis C is chronically undiagnosed & untreated



Estimates in Ukraine (2017) before the project start



People who use drugs need integrated services



- High burden of HCV (nearly 83%) of people receiving opioid agonist therapy (OAT) are also living with hepatitis C
- Stigmatization, low awareness of recent guidelines ➡ majority are not included in the direct-acting antiviral (DAA) waiting lists
- DAA is non-affordable from pharmacies

❖ Growing availability of DAA medications



❖ Ongoing healthcare reform context in Ukraine



Opportunity to build and evaluate a simplified integrated HCV care model at OAT clinics.

Study objectives

Stage 1 – completed in 2021

- Develop a simplified HCV care and treatment model (SHIM) integrated into OAT programs in Ukraine and demonstrate its feasibility
(Pilot with 20 patients in one OAT clinic)

Stage 2 – ongoing since 2022

- To examine the client, clinician and organizational factors that contribute to SHIM adoption and clinical outcomes
- To evaluate the effectiveness of SHIM in improving the HCV treatment cascade outcomes using a cluster-randomized three-arm trial design

(480 participants at 12 OAT clinics)

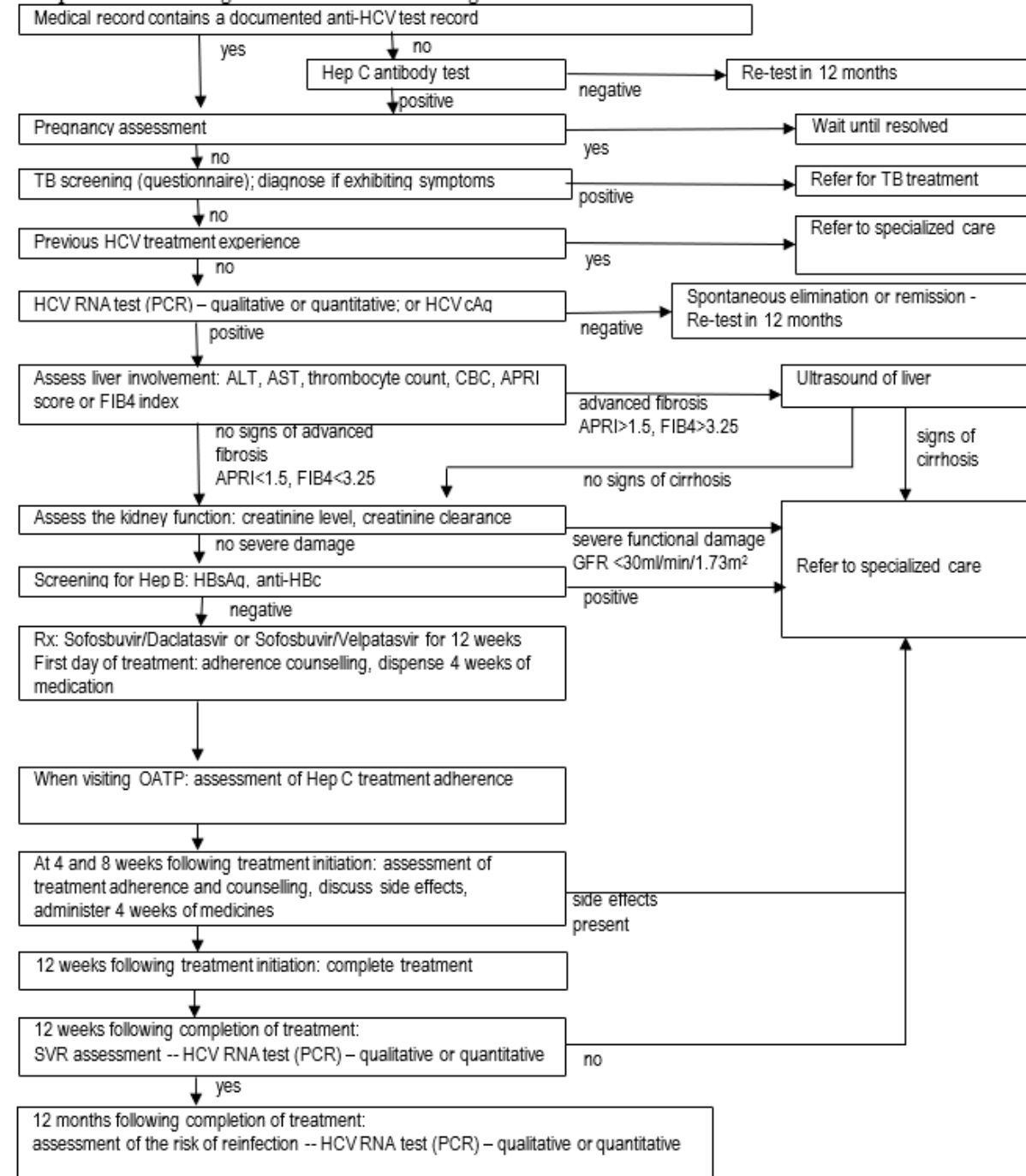
SHIM implementation is strengthened by **Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes)**

SHIM algorithm

Key features:

- Simplified diagnosis (no genotyping, fibrosis assessment by APRI/FIB)
- Pan-genotypic DAA regimens
- Referral of patients with more complicated conditions (HBV, advanced fibrosis, kidney impairment) to specialized facilities

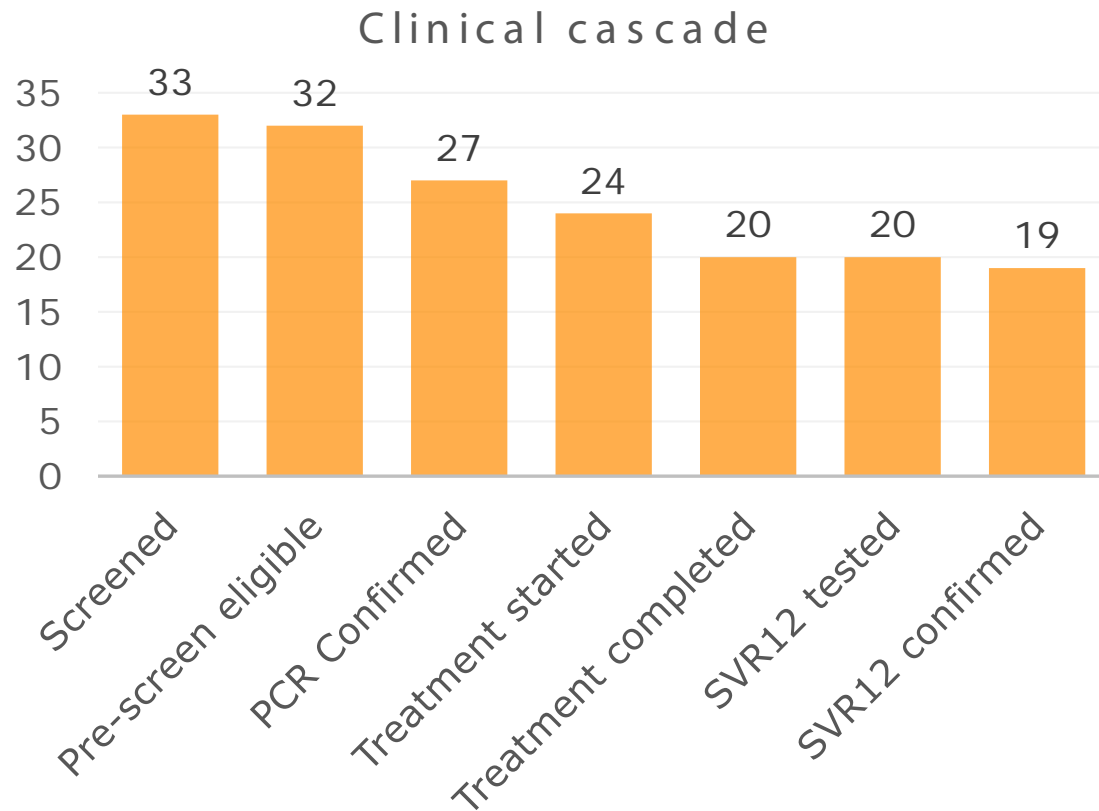
Simplified HCV diagnosis and treatment algorithm



Stage 1 Results

Lviv OAT clinic

(completed in 2021)



Sustained virologic response (SVR) = 95% treatment effectiveness



conforms with data from other studies

Stage 2: design



Hybrid type 2 implementation study

- mixed methods (quantitative + qualitative)
- cluster-randomized three-arm clinical trial, with 12 OAT sites randomized to:
 - standard of care (N=160)
 - SHIM with ECHO facilitation (N=160)
 - SHIM with ECHO facilitation + P4P (N=160)

Total **480** participants living with HCV

Monthly online ECHO sessions

- facilitated by a national HCV expert
- guest speakers from related disciplines like gastroenterology, infectious diseases
- combines didactic sessions + case presentations & discussions

Methods



Quantitative data collection



Structured questionnaires for participants (on the REDCAP platform)



Paper-based questionnaire to assess adherence to treatment and side effects - every 4 weeks

Qualitative data collection



Focus group interviews with study participants

In-depth interviews with clinicians and clinic administration

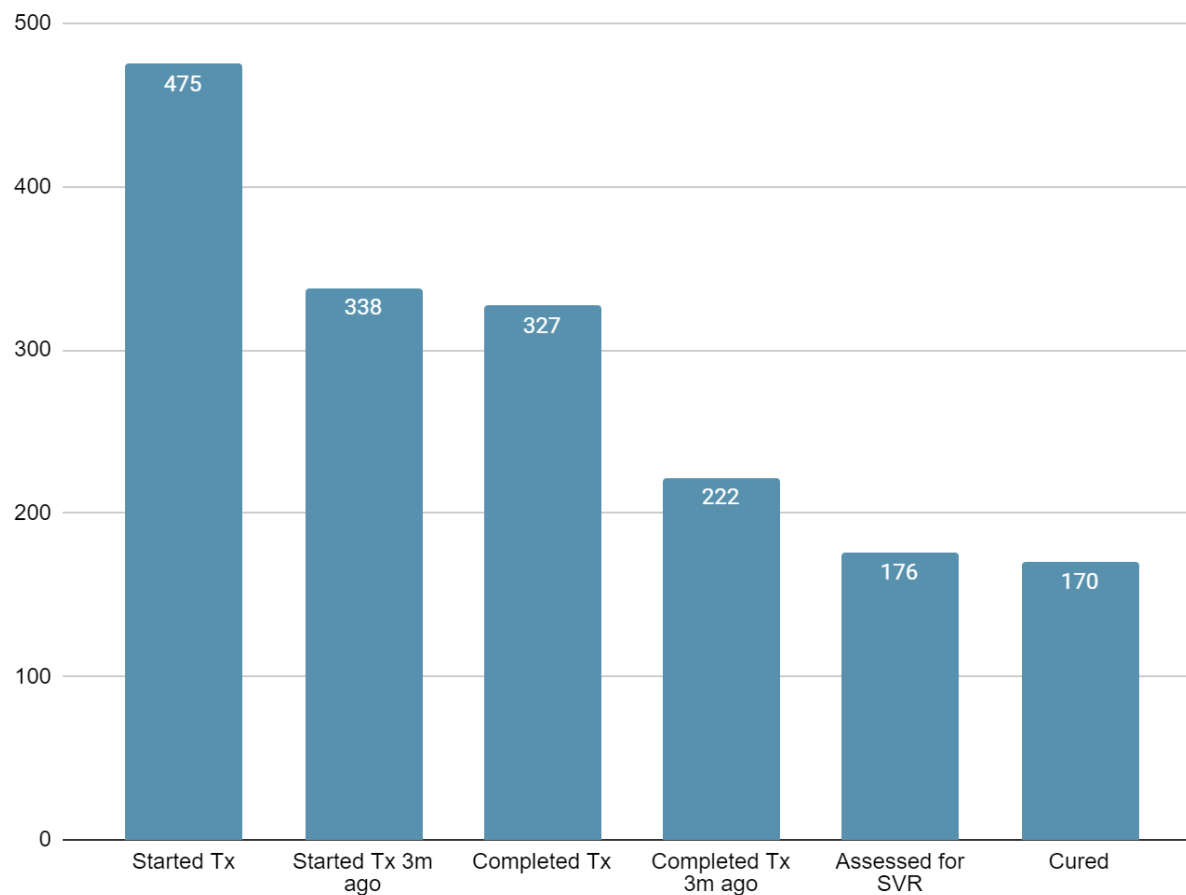
Stage 2: Progress



- ✓ All 12 sites have been included into the study
- ✓ Re-distribution of medications was made
- Enrolling participants from March 2023
- Monthly ECHO sessions are being conducted from April 2023

Stage 2: Current status

(as of July 10, 2024)



Sustained virologic response (SVR) = 96,6%

Participants feedback and experience

"to get cured and to be healthy".

"a wonderful chance"

"a good luck"

R1: I am very happy! My condition became much better. My liver is not bulging as it was before. My skin has lightened. I really feel much better.

R2: And I feel myself better. Now I have energy. And the face is not so yellow. Even some people noticed... (FG 2, Lviv)

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I: If people knew that hepatitis C can be treated at the OAT site, would that increase interest in the OAT program?

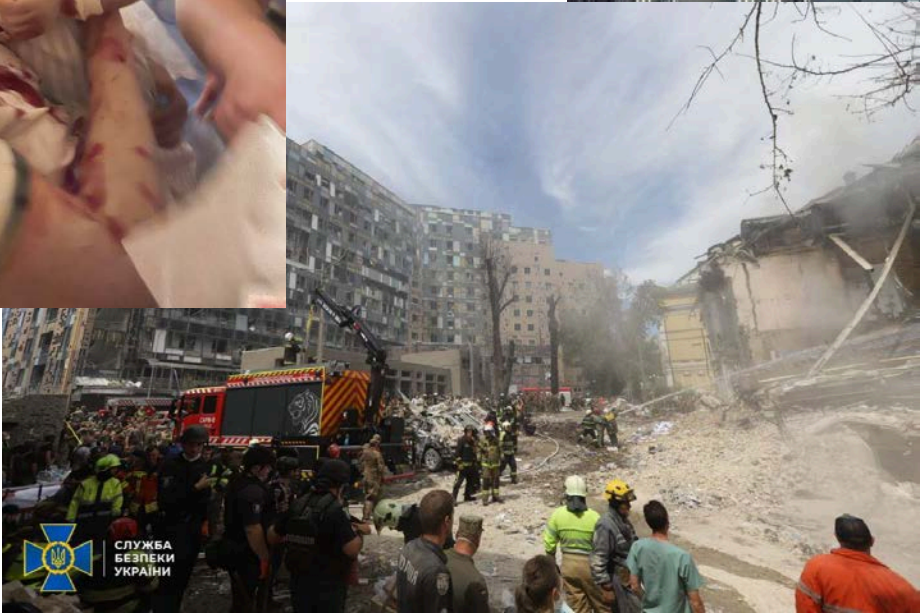
R1: Yes, of course! And if they learn about the prices of the medicines...

P2: Yes, yes, yes.

R3: That would be a motivation for many people to start OAT, one hundred percent! (FG 2)

Current context

Daily shelling of Ukraine brings more and more destruction and complicates the functioning of the healthcare system



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Funding and partners



WESTERN-EASTERN EUROPEAN
PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE
ON HIV, VIRAL HEPATITIS AND TB



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Thank you!

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