

Outgoing # 136

September 08, 2015

Acting Director General

State Enterprise

“State Expert Centre of Ministry of Health of Ukraine”

Talaeva Tetyana Volodymyrivna

Dear Tetyana Volodymyrivna!

We would like to take this opportunity to express our highest respect and seek your assistance with the following.

The problem of viral hepatitis has become increasingly important in recent years. According to public organizations estimates up to 8% of the Ukrainian population live with hepatitis C virus (HCV), which makes approximately 3 million people. The risk of being infected with hepatitis is ten times higher than with HIV, and it is often diagnosed at the stage of cancer or cirrhosis. If the virus is detected in time and the treatment with modern medicines is initiated, more than 90% of patients fully recover. Unfortunately, at the moment, effective drugs for HCV treatment remain inaccessible for the vast majority of the Ukrainian population because of their high price.

CF “Patients of Ukraine” has implemented a number of measures to ensure that the latest treatment of hepatitis C is available in Ukraine.

For several years the activists of our organization have been negotiating with pharmaceutical companies producing highly effective treatment for viral hepatitis C regarding the provision of access to the medicines on the territory of our state at a special price.

With the joint efforts of patient and expert communities the Position (*Enclosure 1*) has been developed and sent to the Ministry of Health, where all signatories insist on the necessity of introduction of modern highly effective HCV treatment in Ukraine to replace the existing methods of treatment with pegylated interferons, which are rarely used in world treatment practices.

The advantages of modern treatment are doubtless. The effectiveness of modern treatment is 92%, patients tolerate their treatment better due to minimal side effects. The course of treatment is shortened to 12 weeks instead of 48. Economic feasibility of implementing the innovative hepatitis C treatment for Ukrainians is extremely important in modern conditions. According to the calculations of national experts, 2.5 times more patients will be able to get state-funded treatment, provided a special price is granted to Ukraine.

At the moment, it is already known that three manufacturing companies have submitted documents to the State Expert Centre for the registration of interferon-free

therapy. It is extremely important for us, as representatives of patients, that the widest possible spectrum of innovative medicines is introduced to the Ukrainian market. Therefore, taking into account the abovementioned circumstances, we address you, dear Tetyana Volodymyrivna, requesting to consider this appeal and accelerate the registration of HCV medicines, the registration applications of which have been submitted to the State Expert Centre. The registration of these medicines in the shortest time span will allow already this year procuring modern treatment for the state funds, through the mechanism of procurement through international organizations. Thus, two and a half times more patients will have access to treatment this year.

Thus, taking into consideration all the circumstances and the current situation, we can say without exaggeration that at the moment **thousands of lives are in your hands**. People need urgent help, so we urge you to register drugs to treat the deadly disease as soon as possible and to provide advanced treatment for as many Ukrainians as possible already this year. Otherwise, Ukraine will be again forced to treat people with outdated and, unfortunately, ineffective treatment regimens.

We sincerely hope for your assistance in the effective resolution of this issue!

Sincerely,



Dmytro Sherembey
The Head of the Board of the CF “Patients of Ukraine”

Enclosure 1: Position of patient-expert community regarding expanding access to viral hepatitis C treatment in Ukraine.