



Die Drogenbeauftragte
der Bundesregierung

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**European Conference on
Hepatitis C and Drug Use
Berlin 23-24 October 2014**

Dr. Ingo Ilja Michels

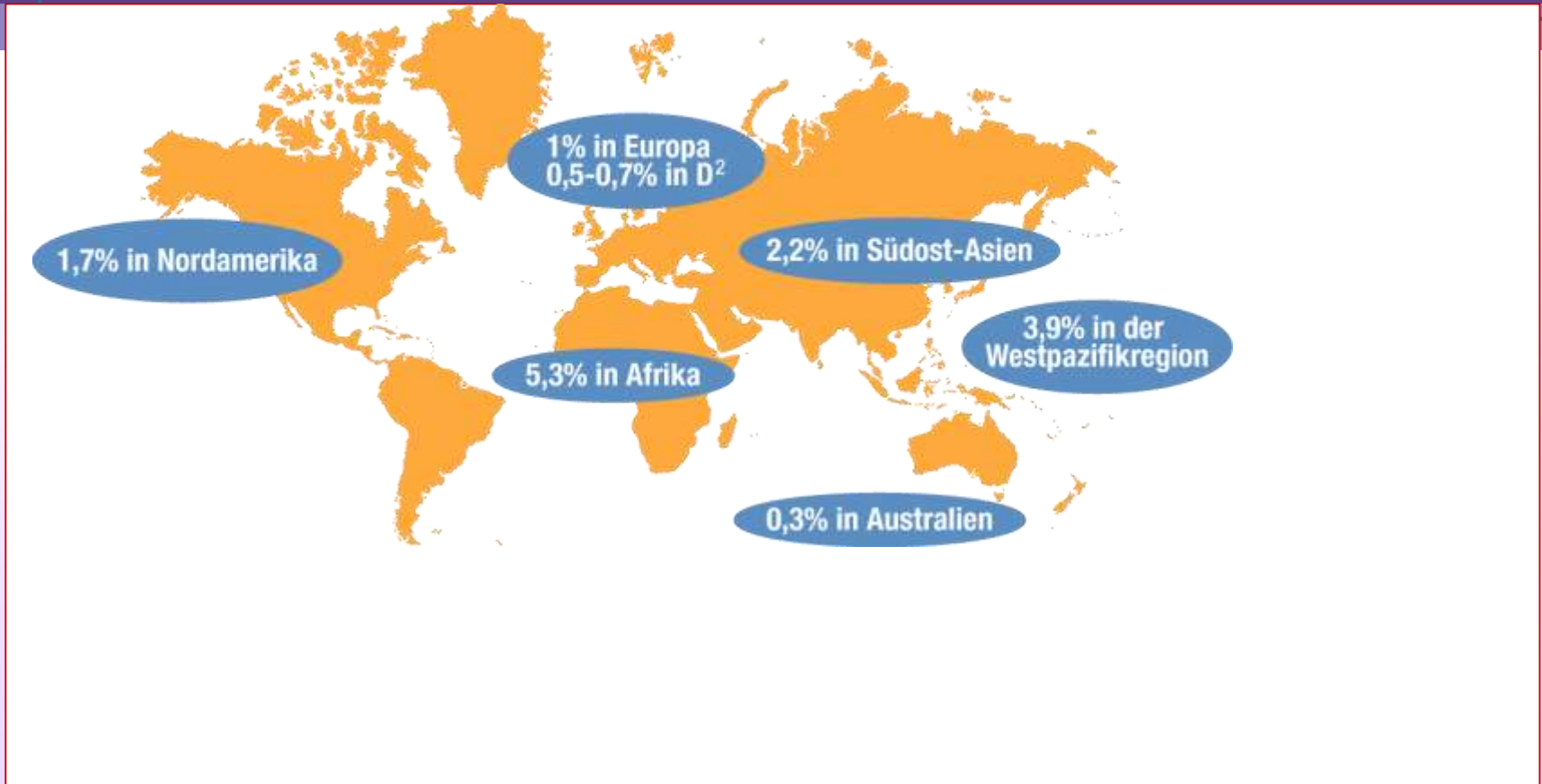
Head of Unit of

Federal Drug Commissioner of the Government

Ministry of Health, Berlin



3% of the world population (180 Mio) are infected with HCV Hepatitis C: a global health problem





Hepatitis – a challenge for health systems

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- The disease burden of viral hepatitis is high. In 2010, a total of 1.4 million people worldwide died from the consequences of viral hepatitis (often liver cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma).
- Within Europe (WHO EURO region) about 14 million people are chronically infected with the hepatitis B virus and approximately 9 million with the hepatitis C virus, the WHO estimates.
- Germany has an estimated prevalence of 0.6% (500,000 cases) for hepatitis B and 0.4% for hepatitis C (about 350,000 cases) in the general population; it is part of low prevalence regions; but: in injecting drug users the prevalence is much higher



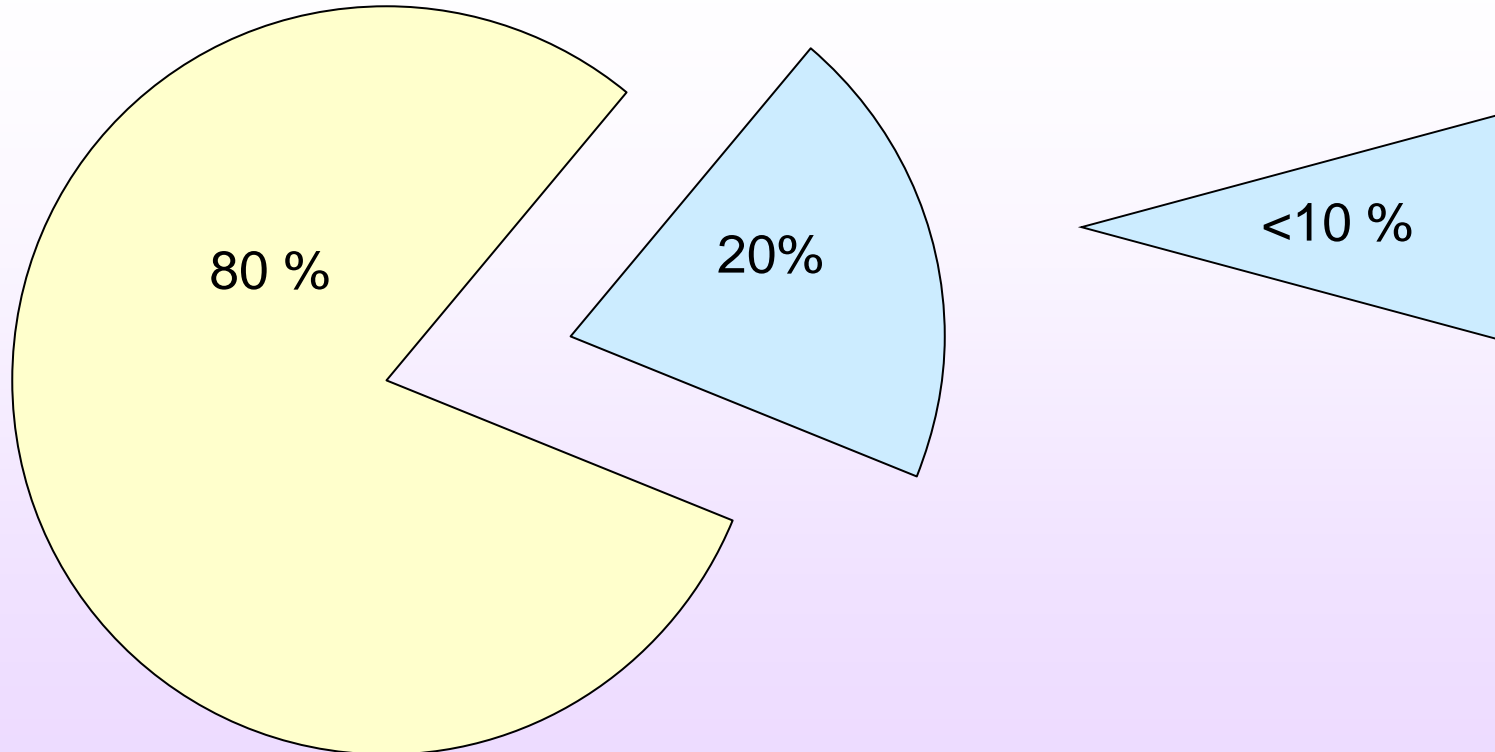
In Germany several hundred thousand people have a chronic HCV infection. It's treated only in one of ten!

unkown

diagnosed

treated

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Hepatitis – challenge for drug service system

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...dejà vu

→ expert meeting
September 2003



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Expertiengespräch am
6. September 2003 im Bundesministerium
für Gesundheit und Soziale Sicherung, Berlin

HEPATITIS

Verbesserung der Hepatitis-Prävention
und Behandlung für Drogenabhängige

APRIL 2004



„wish list“ of 2003

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- regular testing of OST patients
- better use of OST for treatment
- support for stable living conditions
- vaccination campaign in low threshold services
- standards and guidelines / manuals
- network of expertise for hepatitis
- expert meeting/pilots for best-practice
- sensibilisation of associations
- use of competence of AIDS services





„Wunschzettel“ von 2003

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- targeted research projects
- „safer snief“ campaigns
- video for hepatitis prevention
- Hep C treatment within prisons
- from injecting to smoking (controversial!)
- including youth services
- co-operation with public health services





Measures of Ministry of Health 2008

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- The Federal Ministry of Health since 2004 has supported the interdisciplinary "alliance for action on hepatitis and drug use" or International conferences in Berlin (2004), Vienna (2005), Bonn (2006) and Hamburg (2007)
- supported "handbook hepatitis C and drug use - treatment, prevention, care and justice", which has been published in its second edition and can be downloaded from the website of the "Coalition for hepatitis and drug use" ([http:// www. hepatitiscfachtag.org/](http://www.hepatitiscfachtag.org/))
- in addition, the Federal Ministry of Health promoted jointly with the State of Berlin, a pilot project for "early intervention as a measure of the hepatitis C prevention" in Berlin, for innovative methods of hepatitis prevention among drug users ("Fixpunkt")



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Pilotprojekt
Oktober 2008 – September 2011

Frühintervention als Maßnahme
der Hepatitis C Prävention bei
Drogengebrauchern

Fixpunkt



Universität Hamburg
Zentrum für Interdisziplinäre Suchtforschung – ZS




Important measure to reduce hepatitis infections: expansion of substitution treatment

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AN INVISIBLE EPIDEMIC?



83% of Hepatitis C infections in Australia are due to unsafe injecting. Many people don't even know they have it.

HEPATITIS C

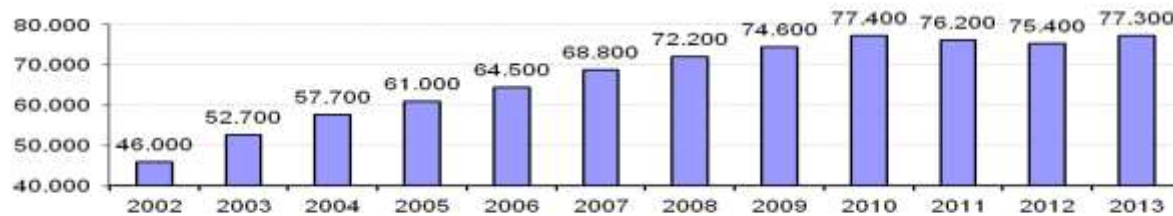
GET IN THE KNOW - GET TESTED



current situation in Germany

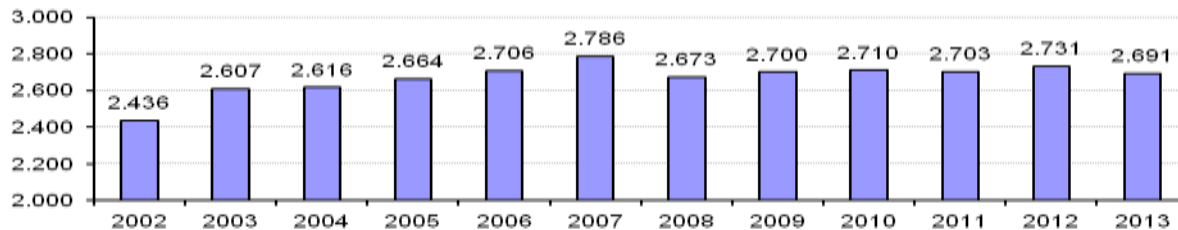
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Abbildung 1:
Anzahl gemeldeter Substitutionspatienten in Deutschland von 2002 bis 2013
(jeweils Stichtag 01. Juli)



Quelle: Bundesinstitut für Arzneimittel und Medizinprodukte

Abbildung 2:
Anzahl meldender, substituierender Ärzte von 2002 bis 2013



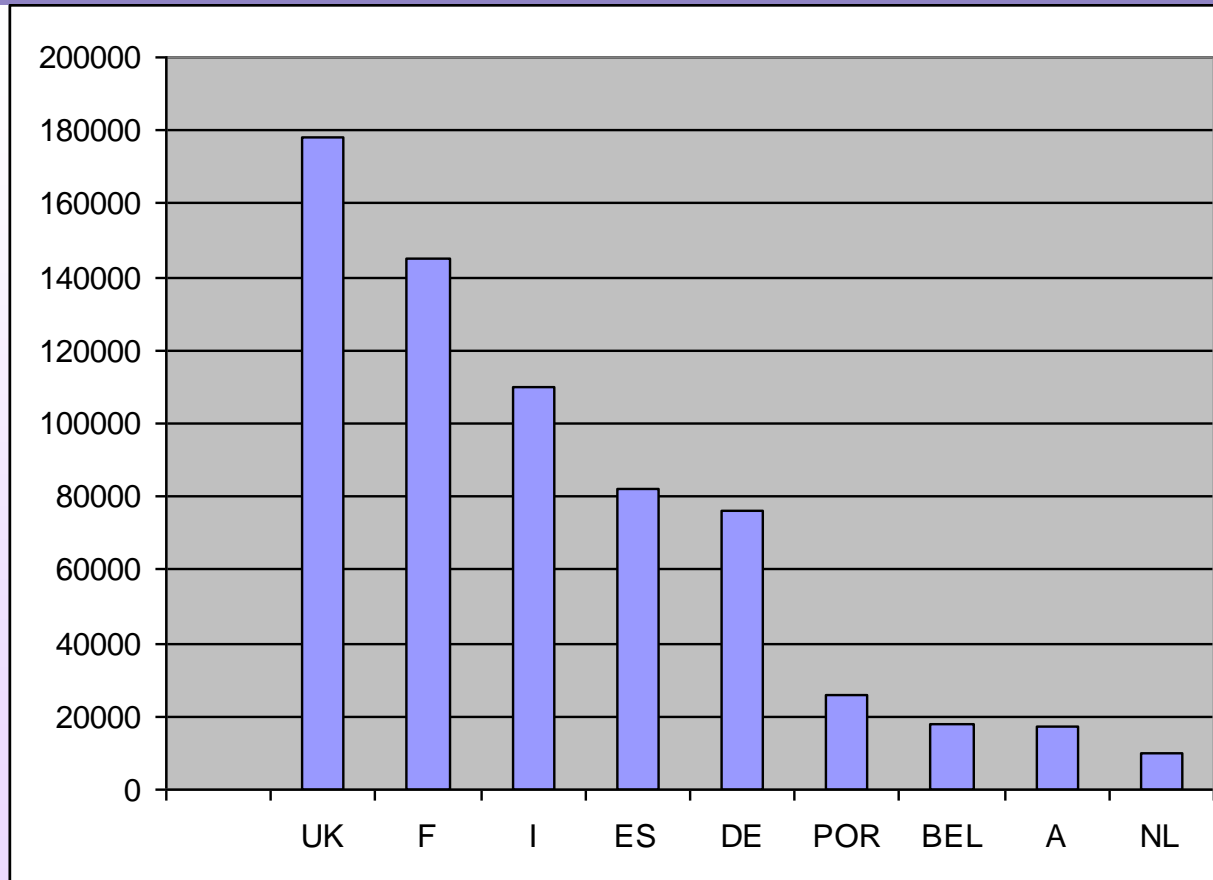
Quelle: Bundesinstitut für Arzneimittel und Medizinprodukte



Current situation in Europe

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→ OST
in Europe
730.000 patients

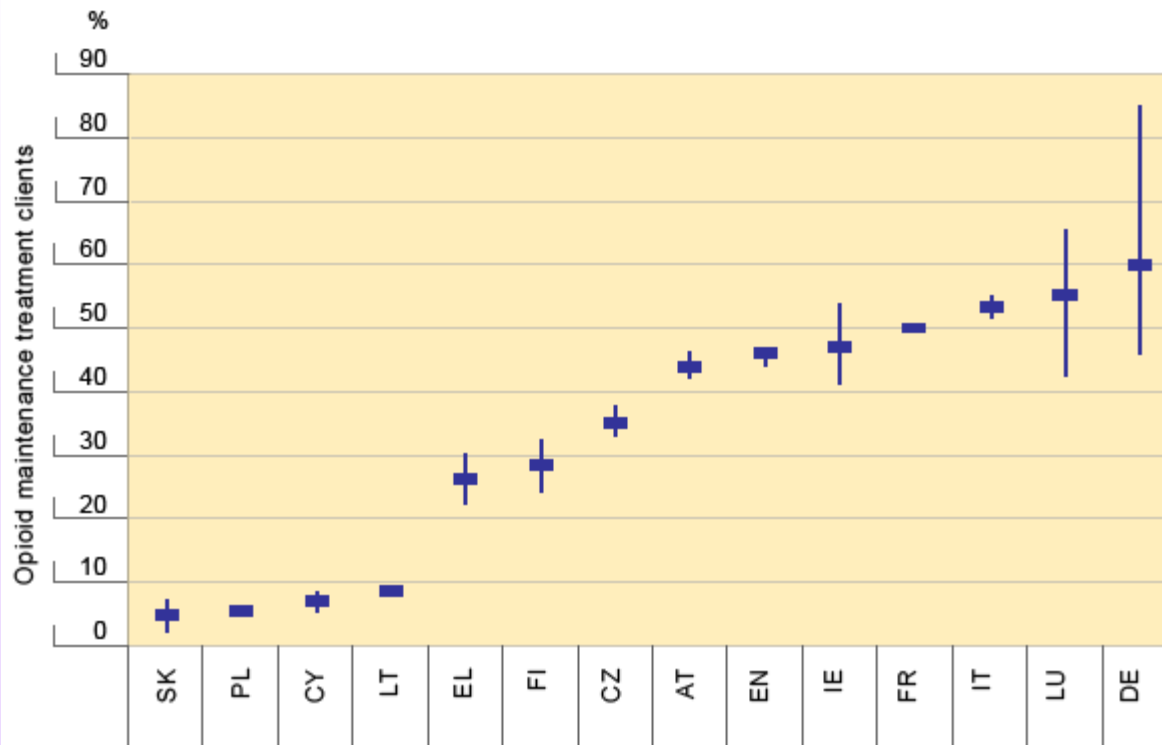




Current situation in Europe

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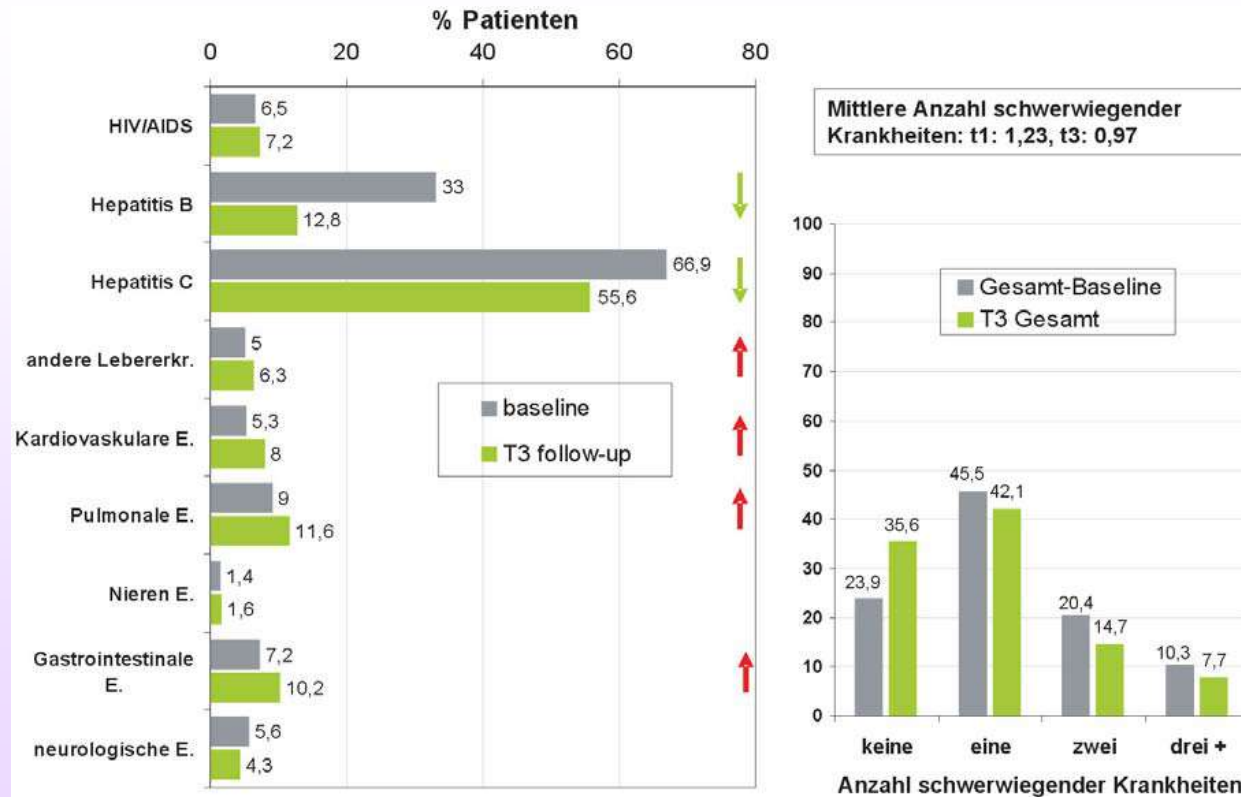
→ percentage of OST of total treatment options for IDU





PREMOS study: despite of high prevalence of OST, high prevalence of hepatitis C

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action plan Hepatitis 2013

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- better information for drug users relating to hepatitis virus infection
- sterile or hygienic drug use paraphernalia, puncture-proof disposal container and disinfectant
- bring more drug addicts in therapy
- specially trained HCV nurses for therapy monitoring

Aktionsplan für eine
nationale Strategie
gegen Virushepatitis
in Deutschland



WHO Resolution 23 May 2014

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The Sixty-seventh World Health Assembly,

URGES Member States:

(14) to implement comprehensive hepatitis prevention, diagnosis and treatment programmes for people who inject drugs, including the nine core interventions, as appropriate, in line with the *WHO, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, UNAIDS technical guide for countries to set targets for universal access to HIV prevention, treatment and care for injecting drug users*, and in line with the global health sector strategy on HIV/AIDS, 2011–2015, and the United Nations General Assembly resolution 65/277, taking into account the domestic context, legislation and jurisdictional responsibilities;



New Treatment Options

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- There are drug treatment options for hepatitis B infection and, more recently, improved treatment options for hepatitis C infection
- 2014 new drugs for treatment of hepatitis C had been approved in Germany (Sofosbuvir and Simeprevir, which can bring significant improvements in the treatment and a successful treatment for a larger patient group is realistic



hepatitis prevention among drug users - an important task

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"Germany has a very diverse system of drug services in relation to measures to reduce harm: it ranges from drug consumption rooms and contact centres for syringe exchange to substitution treatment. In view of the high prevalence of hepatitis C among opiate addicts, effective measures for its prevention in this area are imperative." Nationale Strategy of Drug and

Addiction Policy, February 2012





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Thank you for your attention!

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