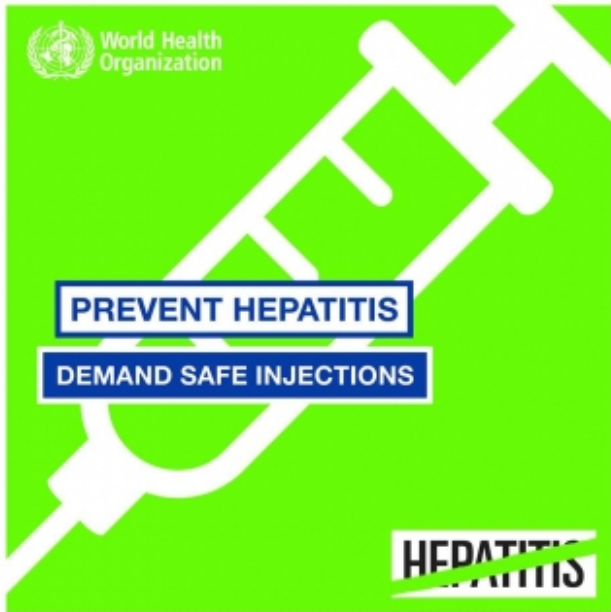


28.7.2015 - “Prevent hepatitis. Act now,” is the theme of this year’s World Hepatitis Day being promoted by the World Health Organization ( [WHO](#) ) and its partners. The [message](#) urges people to ‘prevent hepatitis’ by: 1) knowing the risks, 2) demanding safe injections, 3) vaccinating children, and 4) getting tested/seeking treatment.

Today’s flagship event is taking place in Egypt where, [according](#) to the WHO, 10% of the population between the ages of 15 and 59 is infected chronically with the hepatitis C virus.

Forms B and C are of particular focus this year because, as the WHO further observes, they together “cause approximately 80% of all liver cancer deaths and kill close to 1.4 million people every year.”



There has been a growing awareness of this international health issue since the day was first officially recognized 5 years ago. Last year, the 67th [World Health Assembly](#) passed resolution [WHA67.6](#) which engaged the issue of viral hepatitis, and then followed-up with new guidance for treating the 5 distinct forms of the disease. Continuing this push, countries will share their best practices for treating the disease this September at the first-ever [World Hepatitis Summit](#) in Glasgow, Scotland.

In recent years, there has been progress particularly in where the hepatitis B vaccine has been issued. In such countries, the infection rate of the hepatitis B virus has dropped from 1 in 10 to 1 in 100 among immunized children. But there is still much to be done and prevention is the key, especially against the hepatitis C virus which has no vaccine yet.