

# Short report from the conference: Day 3

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# Side meeting: World Hepatitis Alliance – Stigma and discrimination as barriers for elimination of viral hepatitis in Europe

## Key discussions

- 350 million people living with viral hepatitis and stigma is hindering the elimination of viral hepatitis, but data is missing.
- WHA, together with ECDC, global experts and people with lived experience has developed a global tool to measure stigma focusing on HCV and HBV.
- Survey will be piloted in Europe from next week.

## Next steps

- Data from the survey to be shared during the World Hepatitis Summit in Lisbon 2024.
- Global dissemination of survey and development of tools and resources for advocates to better use the data effectively for action change.



# Plenary session 4: Self-testing and self-sampling to increase testing coverage

## Key points

- Devices must be CE certified and validated for self-testing/self-sampling (ST/SS)
- Programmes/research must be designed according to local context and user preferences
- Collaboration is key BEFORE starting a ST/SS study or programme:
  - **Certified laboratories** have critical information on quality control and analysis considerations
  - **Key populations/NGOs** play a crucial role in messaging and dissemination of the availability and accessibility of ST/SS options
  - **Manufacturers** will operate in compliance with regulations
- \$\$\$ barriers persist: kit cost to potential users and limited funding to implement ST/SS research and prevention-related programming

## Next steps

- Use of digital solutions to rolling out ST/SS options and linkage to care are on the horizon
- Publish your ST/SS validation data!
- Future is bright



## Parallel session 3: HCV Screening Among Key Populations

## Parallel session 4: Self-testing Strategies and Factors Affecting Testing Patterns

- The SARS-CoV-2 epidemic contributed to a significant decrease in the number of tests at VCTs in Poland. Of note, war migrants did not affect the overall number of tests performed, however, **prevalence among people of other nationalities was clearly higher** than among other clients, warranting increased prevention activities in this key population.
- A Georgian pilot study found **feasibility and high acceptance** of HIVST provision and the result notification strategy for male sexual partners of MSM, female and transgender sex workers in clinical settings.
- An HIVST project in the Netherlands found a **high HIVST result return rate** despite the use of un-assisted option.
- Preliminary results from Belgian study indicate **more oropharyngeal Ng infections were detected** using oral rinse samples via NAAT compared to clinical settings.
- **Targeted campaigns** via an HCV self-sampling service in the UK has contributed to increased testing access and rapid linkage to treatment to populations with **historic risk factors and those unaware of their risk.**







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