

# OPERATIVE MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF REFUGEES UNDER MILITARY ACTIVITIES

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### INTRODUCTION

Military conflicts lead to an uncontrolled refugee masses. This increases a risk of spreading of infectious diseases, such as viral hepatitis, HIV infection, and tuberculosis. Due to the war situation caused by annexation of Autonomy Republic of Crimea by the Russian Federation, which practices its repressive laws and nonhuman treatment towards people who use drugs, the Opiate Substitution Therapy (OST) has been closed there. As a result, 806 patients remained without vital treatment. In connection with the ‘International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine’ with the financial support of the Renaissance Foundation, support is to the OST patients.

### METHODS

The patients were directed to two sites (Outpatient Clinics of Kiev’s Narcological Hospital “Sociotherapy”) – buprenorphine hydrochloride and methadone. Before including to the OST Program, patients have had medical examination, as well as questionnaire survey. Medical Commission included narcologist, infection-diseases doctor, and therapist. At the same time, laboratory tests for each patient were performed, namely, blood and urine tests, biochemical tests, rapid tests for HIV antibodies, viral hepatitis B and C, and syphilis. Samples of sputum were collected and directed to tuberculosis (TB) dispensary for GeneXpert investigation of TB.

### CONCLUSION

Due this project sixty OST refugees from Crimea and seventy eight patients from Donbas’s region have received medical care and social support on 31.08.2014  
Using rapid diagnostic tests and methods allowed us to identify patients for adequate medical treatment and care and improve their quality of life.  
Such methods are especially useful in extreme conditions on the territories involved in the military conflicts.

### OBJECTIVES

Ministry of Health (MOH) of Ukraine has approved the decision to organize medical help of this category for Crimean refugees. The Crimean OST patients are provided with an opportunity to continue treatment in the healthcare facilities on the inland Ukraine territory. About 30 OST patients came to live in Kiev, the capital of Ukraine, during April/May 2014. They have temporary accommodation and meals, as well as OST, funded by the project. Since 2005, in Kiev Narcological Hospital “Sociotherapy” implementation of OST for vulnerable groups of injection drug users (IDUs) was launched.

### RESULTS

For the first time, complex screening testing of refugee’s health state was implemented, by using rapid tests and methods (Cito tests for investigations antibodies to viral hepatitis, HIV-infection, syphilis and GeneXpert method for PCR on tuberculosis, “Citolab Reader 300” for investigations of eight criteria in urine). This kind of energetic work allowed revealing patients, which are in need of urgent hospitalization in the hospital (AIDS hospital or TB dispensary). During medical examination, we revealed two TB patients and 25 with chronic viral hepatitis C. All positive rapid tests were confirmed in the Reference Laboratory.

