

# MISSING

Leadership by WHO Director  
Dr Margaret Chan



**The HCV time bomb  
is ticking...**

**185 MILLION INFECTED**

**3-4 MILLION NEW INFECTIONS PER YEAR**

**350,000 DEAD ANNUALLY FROM HCV**

# TEST AND TREAT HEPATITIS C NOW!

Access to prevention tools, diagnostics, and treatment remains extremely limited, particularly for people who inject drugs (PWID), a group disproportionately affected by HCV. Nearly 60% (10 million) of the world's 16 million people who inject drugs have HCV and 90% of new infections are caused by the sharing of injecting equipment.

**The World Health Organization (WHO) must act** to increase global access to HCV diagnostics and treatment, by:

> **Speaking out frequently on the need for rights-based harm reduction services** including needle and syringe programs, opioid substitution treatment and integrated hepatitis C treatment on a scale that will reverse the HCV epidemic among people who inject drugs as recommended by WHO/UNAIDS/UNODC.

> **Actively supporting the application to put pegylated interferon on the WHO Essential Medicines List**, thus improving the likelihood of access to affordable pegylated interferon in low- and middle-income countries.

> **Providing technical support to countries** to create access to affordable, high-quality, effective and safe biosimilar and alternative pegylated interferon products.

> **Creating clear guidance on HCV screening and testing** that explicitly recommends screening for people living with HIV, in whom HCV progresses rapidly, and among people who inject drugs.

**You, Director General Chan, must not fail your mandate.**

We, people living with HCV and our advocates, implore you to demonstrate true leadership through the mobilization of political will and the necessary resources to combat the global HCV epidemic.

Sign the petition at:  
[www.hepCoalition.org](http://www.hepCoalition.org)

