

4th HEPATITIS C
TECHNICAL ADVISORY
GROUP
TAG Meeting

**HCV REINFECTION RATES AFTER
TREATMENT IN PEOPLE WHO INJECT
DRUGS OF A PROSPECTIVE COHORT IN
TBILISI, GEORGIA**

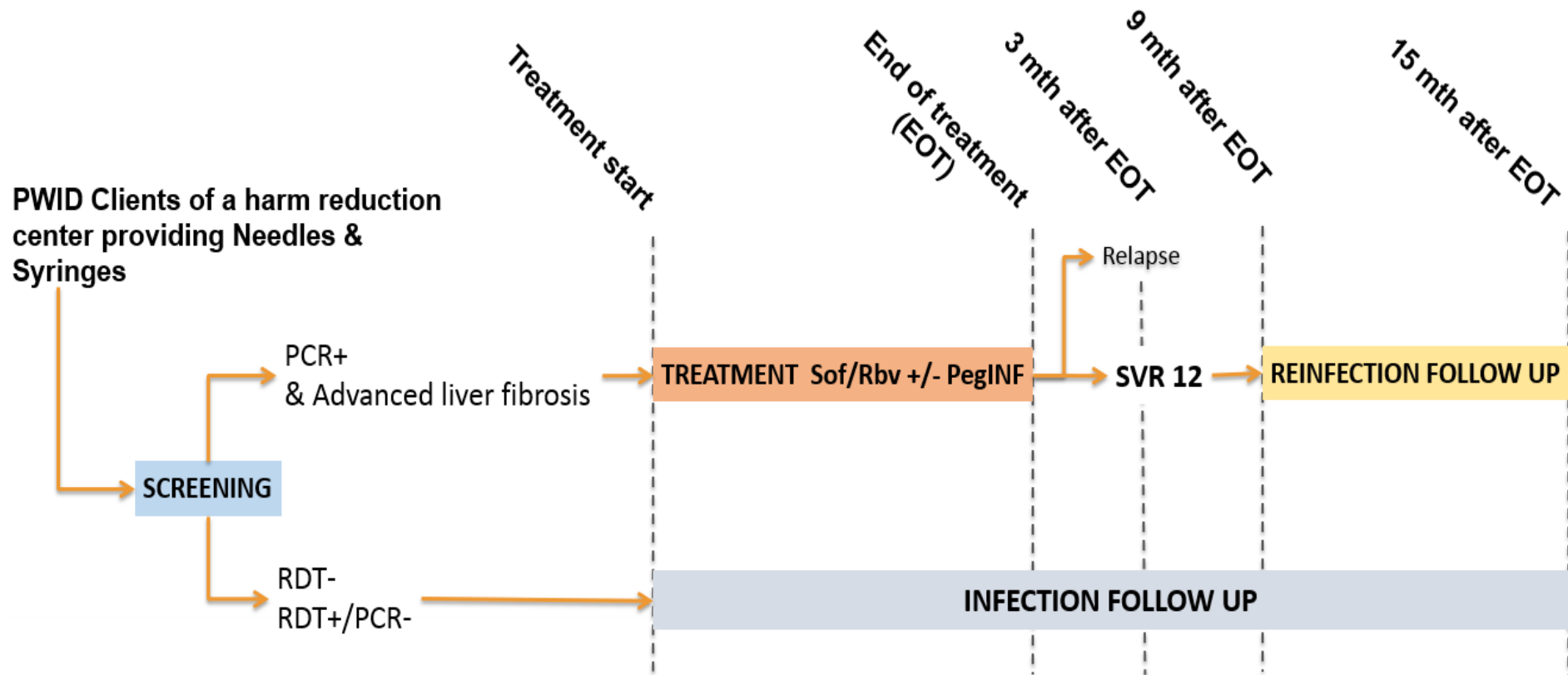
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Background

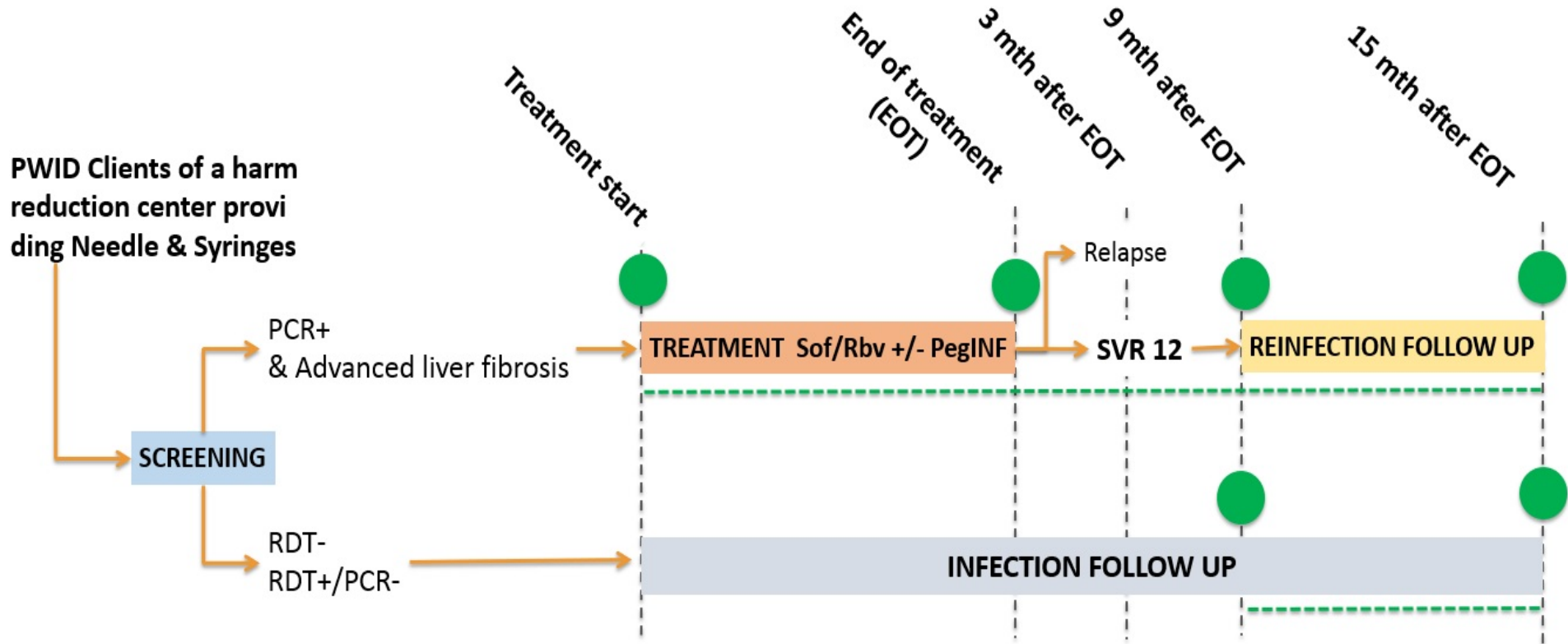
- **People who inject drugs (PWID) account for about 10% of the 71 million chronic HCV cases worldwide**
- **Estimated 23% of new HCV infections occur among PWID**
- **Low Uptake of HCV treatment among PWID**
 - ✓ *Criminalization*
 - ✓ *Discrimination*
 - ✓ *Concernes about adharence to treatment and reinfection*

Methods – Experimental Scheme



Methods - Intervention

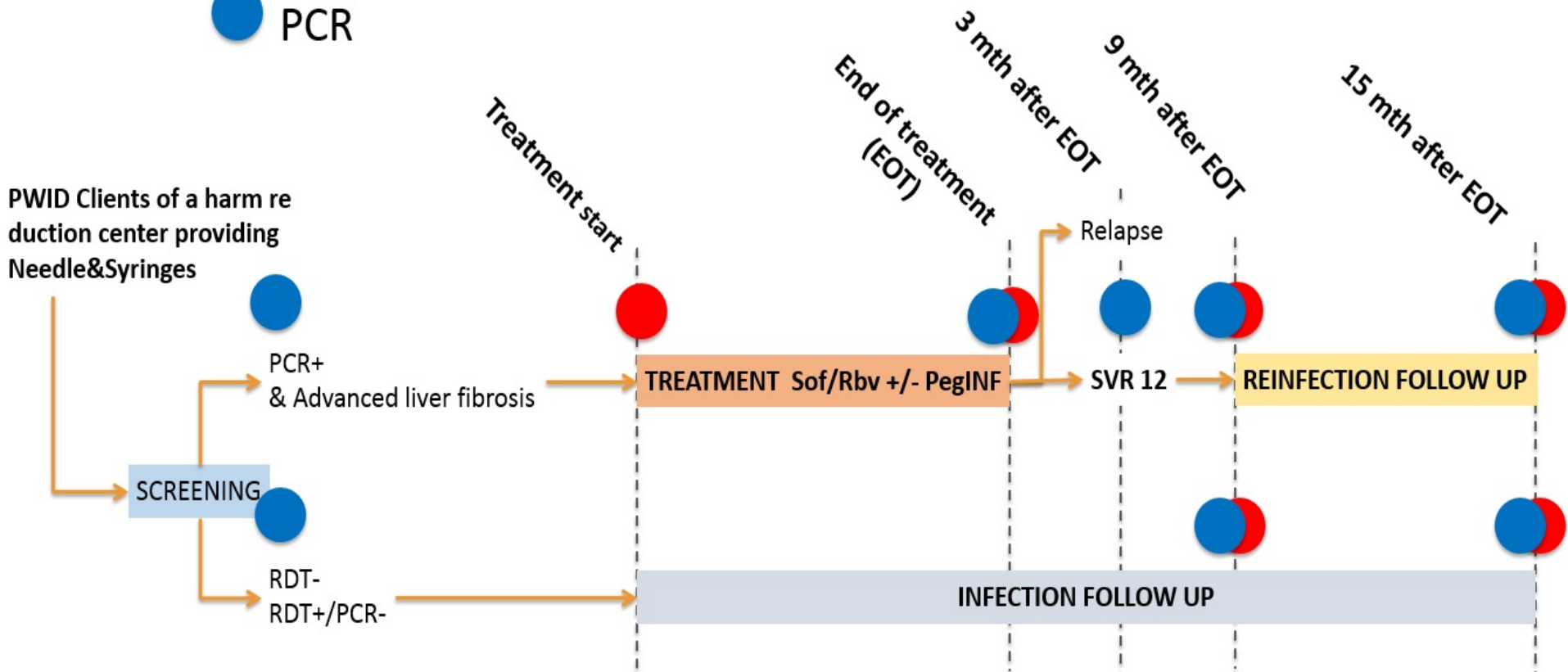
- Counseling session provided by a peer including prevention
- On demand peer support



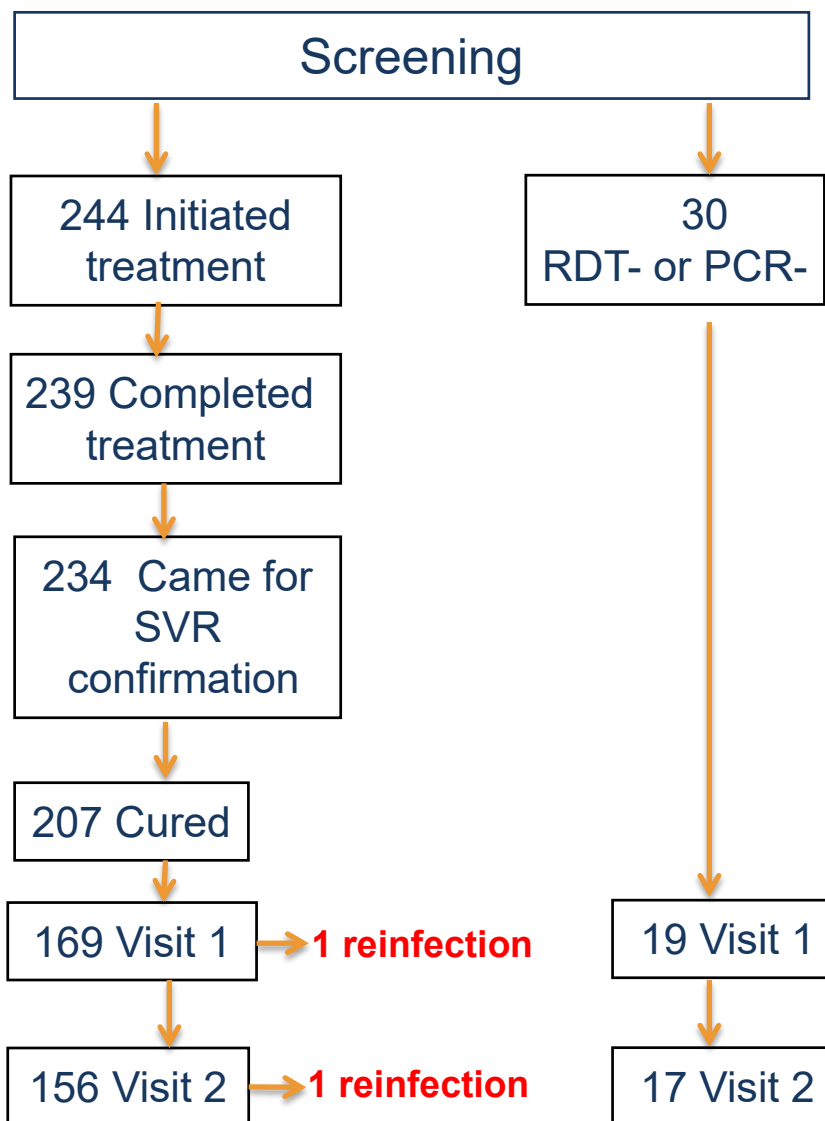
Methods - Data collection

● Behavioral questionnaire

● PCR



Results



	Post-Treatment Group	Control Group
N	169 R1; 156 R2	19 R1; 17 R2
Age	46.9	47.1
Median Follow-up	12.3	16.7
Reported Injecting Drug Use Last 6 Month	56.8%	36.8%
Events	2	2
Incidence Rate	1.2 per 100 Person Year	8.3 per 100 Person Year
Incidence rate ratio= 0.14, 95%CI=0.01–1.97		

Conclusions

- Low incidence of reinfection was observed in our PWID intervention cohort
- Further analysis is needed to understand how our intervention has influenced the behaviors of risk
- Concerns about reinfection should not be a reason for exclusion PWID from HCV treatment programs

Limitations of the Study:

- Control group numbers too small
- Too few reinfections
 - lack of power to compare the incidence with the control group
 - impossible to study the risk factors

Acknowledgements

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