

**4<sup>th</sup> HEPATITIS C**  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY  
GROUP  
**TAG Meeting**

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HEPATITIS C  
ELIMINATION STATE PROGRAM IN THE  
PENITENTIARY SYSTEM**

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# The Right to Health Care

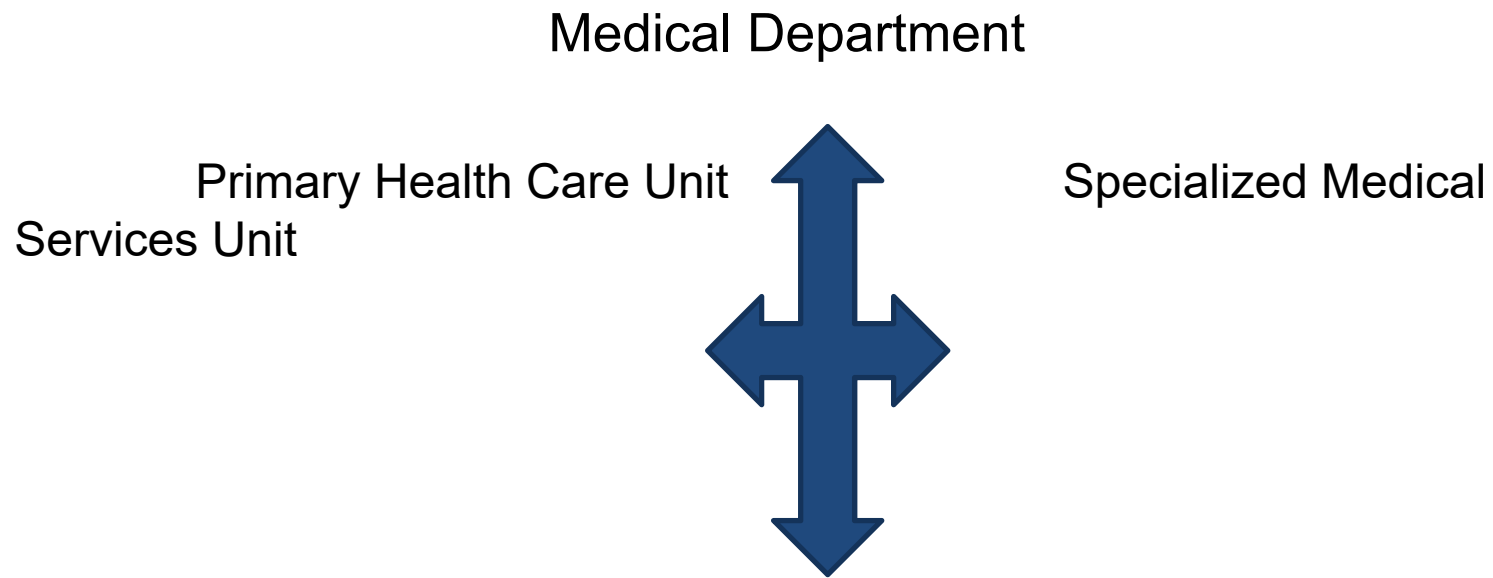
- According to the Constitution of the WHO, “Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.”
- The current constitution of Georgia states that everyone have the **right to enjoy health insurance** as a means of accessible medical aid **along with** a complete, objective and timely information as to a state of his/her working and living environment.

## **Article 6 of the Law of Georgia on Health Care states:**

- *It shall be prohibited to discriminate against a patient due to his/her race, skin colour, language, sex, religion, political and other beliefs, national, ethnic and social affiliation, origin, property status and title, place of residence, disease, sexual orientation, or a personal negative attitude.*
- *It shall be prohibited to discriminate against a **patient in prison or in a place of detention during the provision of medical care.***

# The Healthcare Mechanism in the Penitentiary Establishments

## The Medical Department



- Medical Outpatient Units
- Medical Inpatient Units

# The Penitentiary Healthcare Standard

The principles of the penitentiary healthcare standard:

- **Accessibility** of medical services for the **accused/convicted** inmates at the Penitentiary Establishments;
- **Equivalent medical services** for the accused/convicted inmates at the Penitentiary Establishments;
- Obtaining an informed consent from the accused/convicted inmates at the Penitentiary Establishments and protecting its **confidentiality**;
- Implementing **preventive measures**;
- Humanitarian **support/assistance**;
- Professional **competence**;
- **Integration**.

# Implementation of the State Health Care Programs in the Penitentiary Establishments

- **Early detection** and screening of diseases;
- **Immunization**;
- **Diabetes** management;
- The state **HIV/AIDS** program;
- The state program for **Tuberculosis** control;
- Treatment of patients with **drug addiction**;
- Implementation of the **Hepatitis C Elimination** state program;



# The Hepatitis C Elimination State Program

## 31.01.2014. N01-5/6-Nº12 Joint Decree

Treatment of patients was carried out with so-called 'dual therapy' - **Pegylated Interferon (PEG-INF)** in combination with **Ribavirin**

**The anti-viral Program was available for the following categories of convicted inmates:**

- Duly diagnosed with viral hepatitis C;
- The degree of the liver fibrosis was determined and it was more or equal to **stage 2** (based on the METAVIR score);
- Sentence exceeds 18 months, which does not include

## 20.04.2015 N169 Decree

**Treatment of patients was carried out with dual/triple therapy – combination of Pegylated Interferon, Sovaldi and Ribavirin.**

1. The potential candidates for the treatment include all HCV positive patients who wish to undergo treatment and do not show side-effects to the medications used for the treatment of Hepatitis C; namely, patients who are Hepatitis C treatment naïve and patients who are treatment experienced, but the treatment was not successful;
2. The following groups are given priority when starting and selecting patients for the antiviral treatment course:
  - 2.1 .Patients with **compensated** cirrhosis (F4 Metavir score) (A1)
  - 2.2. Patients with **advanced fibrosis** (F3Metavir score) (A1)
  - 2.3. Patients with **decompensated cirrhosis** (liver transplant candidates).
  - 2.4. Patients with **liver transplant and HCV reinfection** (B1).
  - 2.5. Patients with extrahepatic manifestations, such as type 2 and 3 mixed cryoglobulinemia vasculitis;
  - 2.6. Patients **with HIV/AIDS co-infection** (B1)
  - 2.7. The first priority in the second section of this annex will be given to the patients with compensated and decompensated cirrhosis, persons with liver transplants, patients with clinically significant extrahepatic manifestations and F3. F4 patients. These patients are regarded as the first stage beneficiaries of the program.

# The Hepatitis C Elimination State Program As of today

Treatment of patients is carried out with Harvoni +/- Ribavirin (based on genotypes)

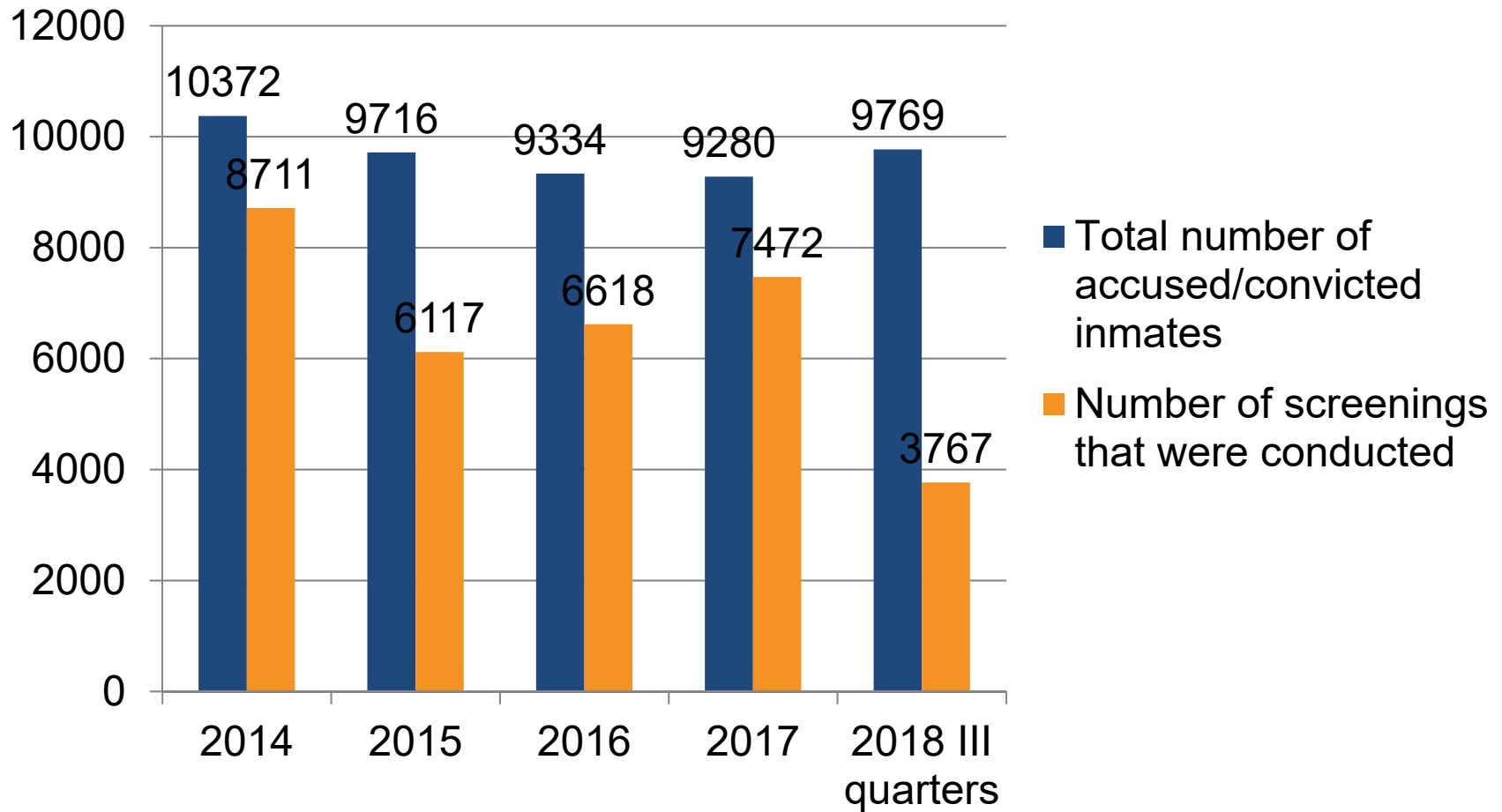


The program is eligible for: accused/convicted inmates at the penitentiary establishments even in the absence of documents proving Georgian citizenship;

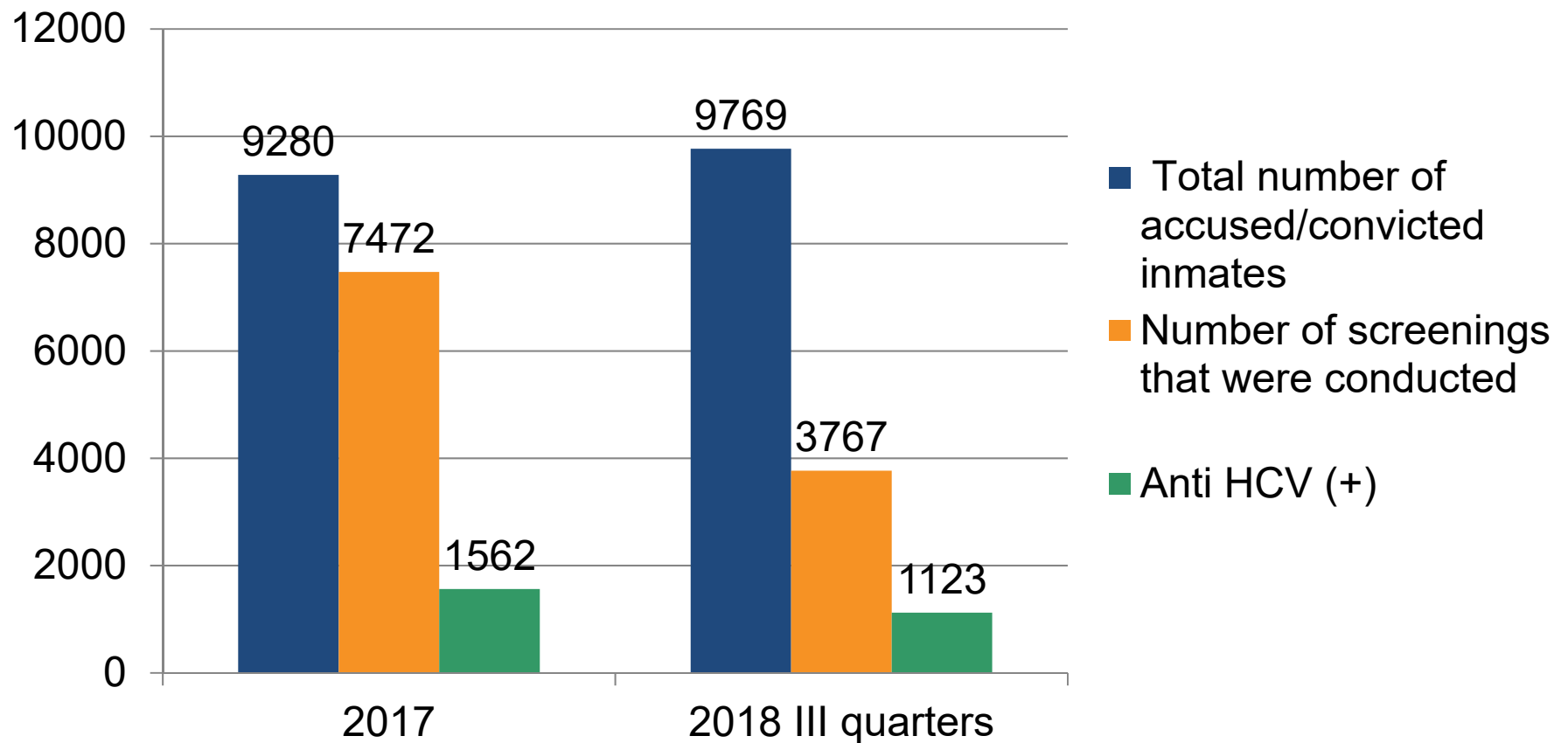
**The mechanism for admission into the anti-viral program is identical of the mechanism applied in the civil sector**



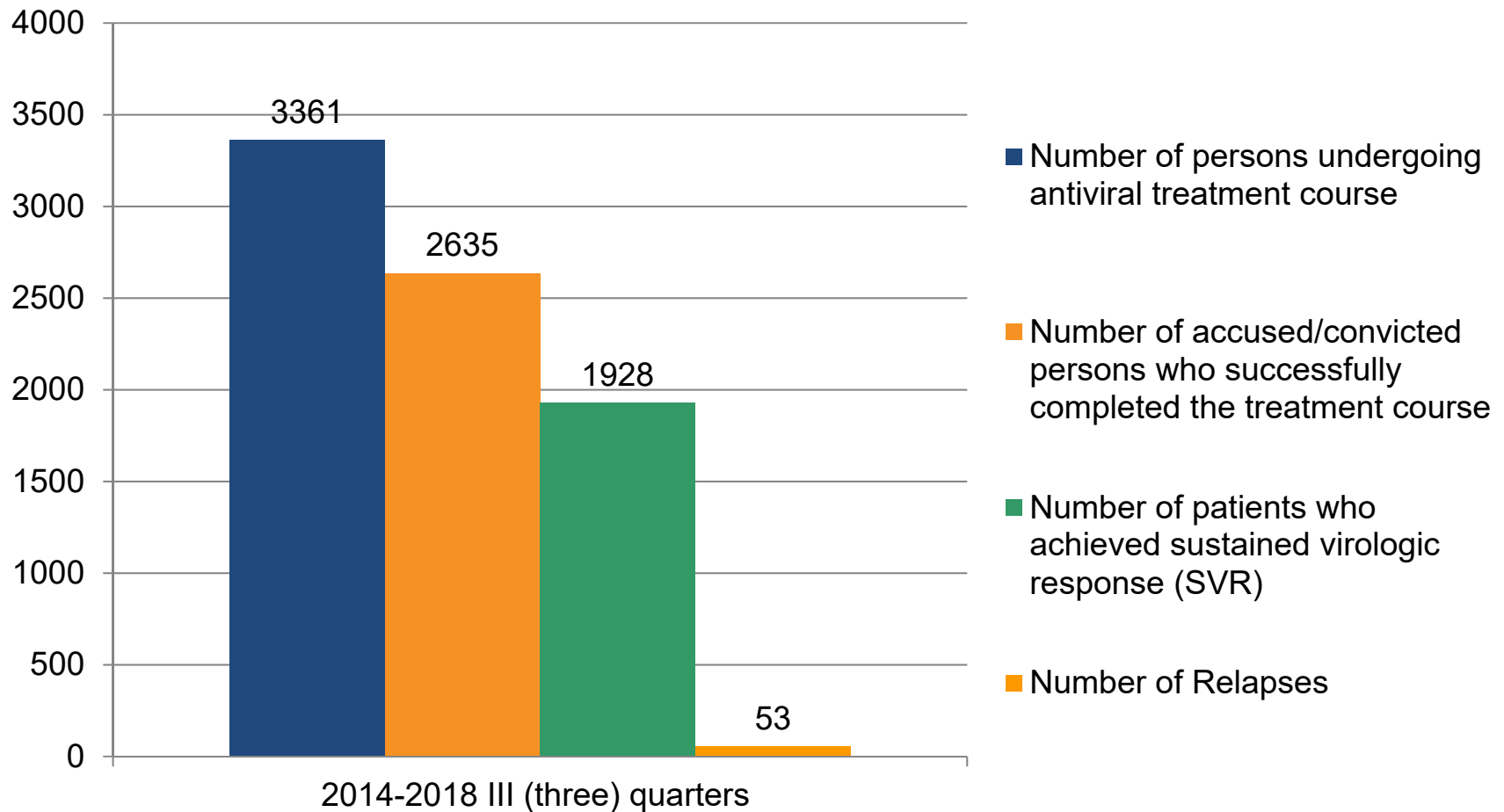
# Statistical Analysis of the Screening for Hepatitis C



# Statistical Data for 2017-2018 III (three) quarters



# Statistical data for 2014-2018 III (three) quarters



## Problems & Challenges

- Data reflection problem in STOP C program;
- process after the release from Penitentiary Establishment and record-keeping;
- Successful continuation of the program.



**Thank you for Attention!**  
**Questions?**