Introduction
COVID-19 pandemic disrupted health services delivery across countries. Hepatitis prevention, diagnostic and treatment services were non-existent. Despite these disruptions in hepatitis care delivery, the established infrastructure for hepatitis elimination was widely operated for expanding COVID-19 testing and treatment services.
In addition, various resource responses were augmented during the pandemic that offer potential opportunity to minimize the cost and reduce inequity in hepatitis elimination domains as we recover from the pandemic.

Aim
To assess the contribution of viral hepatitis care and treatment infrastructure to pandemic response and identify potential opportunities for leveraging the pandemic response capacity for delivery of viral hepatitis care.

Method
A web-based survey was designed in RedCAP in English for Program Managers and Healthcare Providers with a separate set of questions for each. The study team sent targeted solicitations via email to professional societies and CGHE networks. Additionally, various response resources were augmented during the pandemic that offer potential opportunity to minimize the cost and reduce inequity in hepatitis elimination domains.

Conclusion
PMs and HCPs from a diverse set of countries reported that the resources of hepatitis testing and care were repurposed for the pandemic response, demonstrating the utility of robust hepatitis testing and treatment programs for health system resilience and epidemic response. Data suggests that COVID-19 response continues to require the use of care staff and clinic space previously used for delivery of hepatitis services.

References

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