Stigma and discrimination in health care facilities

Dmytro Sherembey
Coordination Council Member
All-Ukrainian Network of PLWH
1995-2000

- HAART (antiretroviral treatment)
- Diagnostics (viral load, extrapulmonary TB, opportunistic infections)
- ST (substitution therapy)
- Stop TB Program

- No access
- No access
- No access
- No access
NO CHOICE!
Mortality

75% of HIV-positive people in Ukraine die from tuberculosis
2000-2008

- HAART (antiretroviral treatment)
- Diagnostics (viral load, extrapulmonary TB, opportunistic infections)
- ST (substitution therapy)
- Stop TB Program
- Partial access
- Partial access
- Partial access
- Partial access
Discrimination – a key barrier to treatment and recovery.
Stigma and discrimination in health care facilities

HIV, TB, and drug dependence

- refused diagnostics
- not hospitalized
- refused treatment
- refused surgical help
- no referrals to specialized clinics
- extorted money
Stigma and discrimination in health care facilities

- Information disclosed to other health professionals
- Marked patient cards
- Neglectful attitudes
- Lack of counseling
- Lack of necessary information

BUT IF YOU WERE LUCKY AND WERE ADMITTED
Hospital conditions

- Bad nutrition
- Same room with open form TB patients
- No medications
- Terrible sanitary conditions
- No ventilation
Consequences

• Concealment of HIV status
• Delay or unwillingness to get tested
• Interruption or refusal of treatment
• MDR TB
• Refusal of ART
• Treatment with folk medicine
• Refusal of treatment of concomitant diseases in other medical facilities
“It is not a tragedy that I am sick. The tragedy is that I am refused treatment and, therefore, the chance to survive.”

Patient
PROBLEMS OF PLWH WITH TB
Looking for solutions

- Zhenya, 30 years old
- HIV+
- Diagnosed with extrapulmonary TB
- Was refused a surgery
- Institute of Phthisiology could not say how long he will survive without a surgery
One-year fight for the right to have a surgery

• Correspondence with clinics
• Meetings with chief physicians
• Meetings with surgeons

EVERYONE REFUSED
In the spotlight of Channel 5

At gunpoint of TV cameras the Chief Physician of the Institute of Phthisiology pledged to perform a surgery on Zhenya.
Zhenya today

- ALIVE
- Married
- Has a daughter
- Engaged in arts
- Enjoys life
All-Ukrainian Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS
Network
Solution

We advocate for:

- Equal access to medical help
- Right for anonymity and confidentiality
- Access to substitution therapy programs
- Humane treatment conditions
- Understanding and respect
Advocacy targets – decision-makers

- President Committee on TB and HIV/AIDS
- NCCU on AIDS and TB
- Oblast and city coordination councils
- Intersectoral working groups
- International and national conferences
- Oblast and city health administrations
- TB dispensaries
In 2006, All-Ukrainian Network of PLWH won the Red Ribbon Award at the International AIDS Conference in Toronto for its work in addressing stigma and discrimination related to HIV/AIDS
Antidote against discrimination

• Only **people** are able to understand
• Only **people** are able to be compassionate
• Only **people** are able to help

When human life is of greatest value, **EVERYTHING** is possible.
ALL-UKRAINIAN NETWORK OF PLWH
www.network.org.ua

WE STAND FOR EQUAL RIGHTS FOR LIFE