



December 6, 2023

To: **Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI)**
Dr. Neil Buddy Shah
Chief Executive Officer

Copy: **Viartis**
Abhishek Datta
Head of the ARV Drug and
Infectious Disease Division in the EMEA region

Hetero
Vinay Dixit
General Manager, CIS Countries

Dear colleagues,

We, the members of the Eurasian Community for Access to Treatment (ECAT), are reaching out to you with a crucial matter concerning the accessibility of treatments for Hepatitis B and C in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia region. ECAT is a coalition of activists and experts dedicated to improving access to diagnosis and treatment for HIV infection, Viral hepatitis, and Tuberculosis. ECAT was established in November 2016 during a meeting on intellectual property and access to treatment in Tbilisi (Georgia).

From September 27 to 29, a meeting on the accessibility of HIV, viral hepatitis, and tuberculosis treatment and diagnosis took place in Almaty. During this meeting, a representative from Viartis shared information with us about an agreement between CHAI, Hetero, and Viartis, enabling a reduction in prices for medications to treat Hepatitis B and C certified by the World Health Organization (WHO).

However, we have noticed that in some countries within the Eastern Europe and Central Asia region, the prices for Hepatitis B and C medications are significantly higher than those specified in this agreement.

We kindly request you to consider the possibility of including countries from the EECA region, namely Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Ukraine into this agreement and identify any barriers preventing their inclusion. Such a step would enable more affordable drug prices and, consequently, improve access to quality treatments for Hepatitis B and C for patients in our countries.

We are willing to collaborate with you by providing necessary information and support on this important matter. We appreciate your attention to our request and look forward to a fruitful collaboration on this issue.

Best regards,
Aleksey Mikhailov, Head of Business and Government Relations