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## Launch of HeBOOC, a free online training course on hepatitis B clinical management

For the World Hepatitis Day, the French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD) and the Chiang Mai University Faculty of Associated Medical Sciences launch today a new tool for physicians and other health care workers to learn or update their knowledge on hepatitis B.

HeBOOC is a free online self-training course available at [www.hebooc.org](http://www.hebooc.org)

In Thailand, more than 2 million people are chronically infected with hepatitis B virus. Since 1992, universal HBV immunization of newborns has been integrated into the national expanded program on immunization. In 2013, vaccine coverage in children was around 99.4%. The effectiveness of the immunization program has resulted in a dramatic decrease in chronic hepatitis B prevalence in children. Thus, today, most of HBV carriers in Thailand are adults, many of whom do not know that they are infected. Treatment to help prevent life-threatening complications is available, but very few receive treatment. The course will help health care worker to better understand this disease and help patients engage in treatment programs.

### HeBOOC: 6 training modules to help healthcare professionals prevent, diagnose, and treat HBV

With the support of a grant from the World Health Organization (WHO), the IRD and Chiang Mai University joint research unit PHPT has developed a free online training course to help Thai healthcare professionals with the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of HBV infections and its complications.

The content of HeBOOC is consistent with the 2015 WHO guidelines. It contains 6 modules:



- Epidemiology and prevention of HBV
- Virology, immunology and natural history of HBV infection
- Screening and diagnosis
- HBV complications (fibrosis, cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma)
- Management of chronic hepatitis B
- Monitoring of chronic hepatitis B

HeBOOC can be used on tablet, PC and smartphone. About 6 to 10 hours are needed to complete all modules, and earn the certificate delivered at the end of the course. The training is available both in Thai and in English. The current English version has been primarily developed for Thailand.

Access HeBOOC and start training now: [www.hebooc.org](http://www.hebooc.org)

**Did you know?**

The hepatitis B virus (HBV) infects the liver, causing hepatocellular necrosis and inflammation. When acquired at birth or during early childhood, as it is often the case in Asia, hepatitis B often becomes a chronic disease leading to cirrhosis and hepatic cancer in adulthood.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), hepatitis B affects **257 million people worldwide**, including about **100 million people in South East Asia**. At least 25% to 30% of people chronically infected with HBV will develop serious liver complications such as cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) in their lifetime. In 2015, hepatitis B resulted in 887,000 deaths worldwide.

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[www.phpt.org](http://www.phpt.org)