

# Implementation status of opioid substitution therapy (OST) program during COVID-19 in Ukraine

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Kyiv, April 2020

# Opioid substitution therapy (OST) program during COVID-19 in Ukraine

OST Program in Ukraine imposed enhanced measures to avoid negative consequences in conditions of COVID-19 epidemic.

As of 04/01/2020, 12,976 patients are receiving OST funded from GOU budget at 208 health-care facilities

Retention rate in OST program increased from 82.5% to 82.7% in March

**Scale-up** in February 2020 - 2.2%, in March 2020 - 1.2%

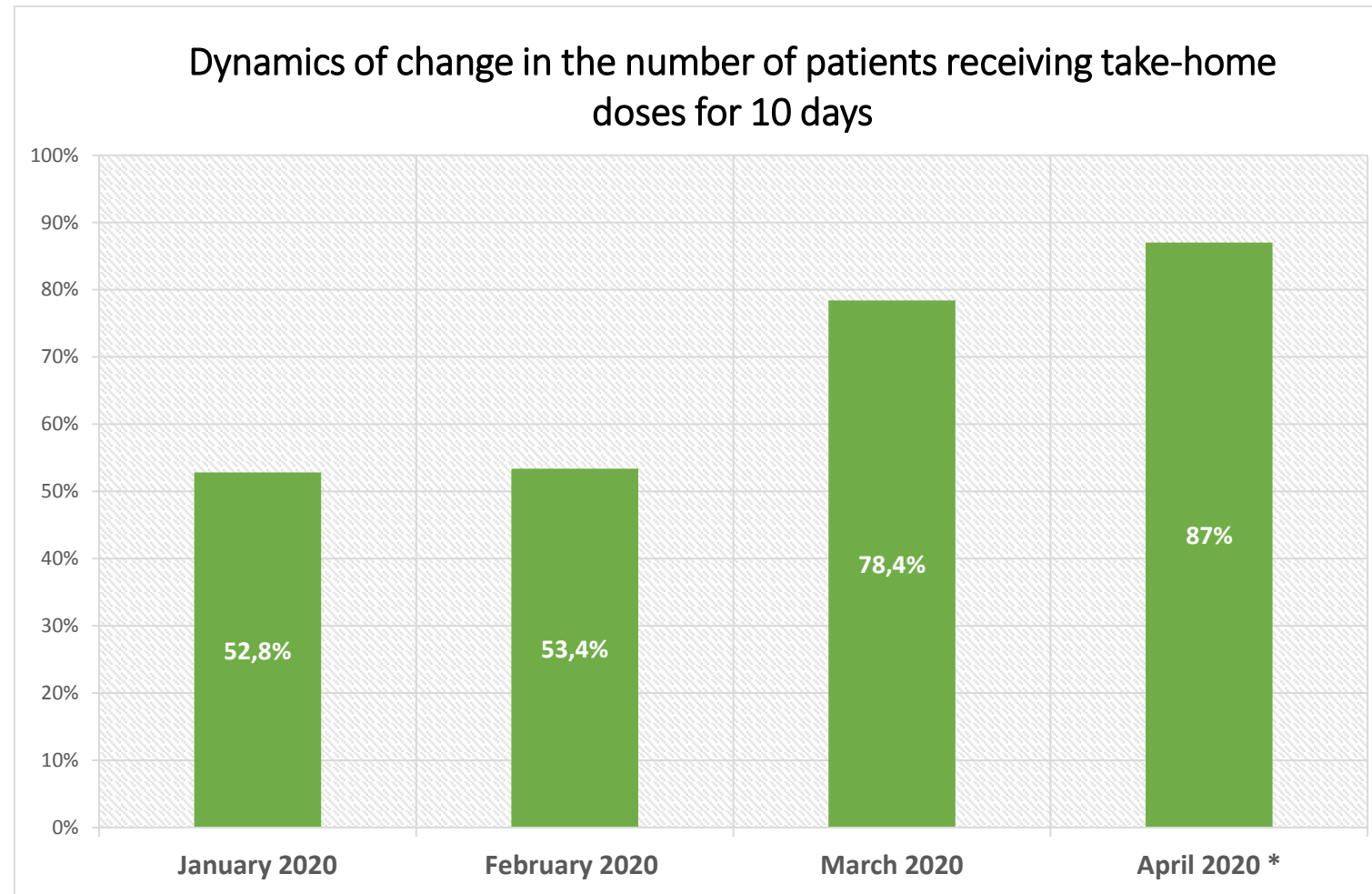
*Possible reasons for the decline in growth:*

- movement restrictions
- changed working hours for some sites (2-3 times a week)
- need for daily attendance of sites for dose adjustment

***Nevertheless, the recruitment of new patients has not stopped!***

**Due to the work of the Alliance, PHC, NGOs, all patients in Ukraine continue to receive OST (mainly up to 10 days' supply of take-home doses), and HIV+ patients receive ART**

# Opioid substitution therapy (OST) program during COVID-19



\* average, some sites have a 100% of 10-days take home doses

# The organization of psychological and social support of OST patients during COVID-19



Online consultancy by the phone or via Skype, Viber, Telegram



Escorting clients to health care facilities if needed



Optimization of sites working hours for comfortable customer flow allocation



Consultancy on COVID-19 prevention

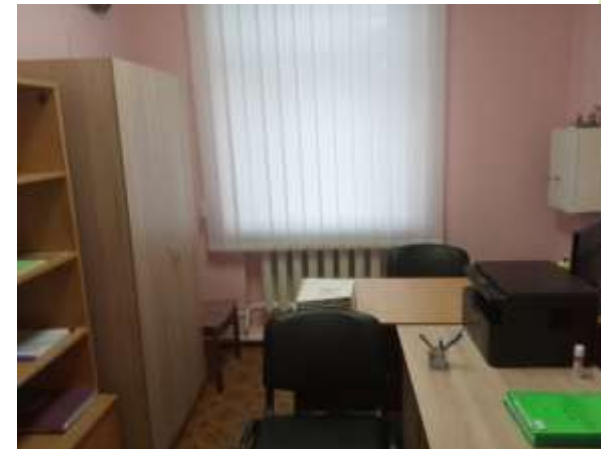


Transfer of clients to take home doses

# Scale-up of OST program during COVID-19

Alliance has launched RBF (Result-Based Financing) to incentivize medical staff for recruitment and retaining new patients in the program.

Alliance has started a technical support project for OST sites, and the competition for health care facilities and NGOs continues. Opening of new OST sites and conditioning of existing sites will be supported!



## Alliance ensured one of the most important conditions for the quick transition of OST patients to 10-days take-home doses

Alliance supplied more than 50,000 rapid test kits to control the use of psychoactive substances before quarantine began, therefore, most of the patients were able to receive 10-days take-home doses fast and on time!



## Alliance continues to minimize quarantine law enforcement cases

At the beginning of the quarantine in March 2020, Alliance sent to the National Police of Ukraine, controlling law enforcement agencies and the Office of the Ombudsman information and the request to prevent violation of the rights of OST patients, who are transferred to take home doses of OST for up to 10 days when the quarantine was introduced



# National hotline on drug addiction and OST

@osthotline 0-800-507-727

Available services:

- legal support
- Coverage of medical aspects of taking medicines
- Informing about quarantine activities of the OST program
- Advocacy for transfer of patients to take-home doses
- Raising awareness about overdose

! OST patients were issued with pass allowing to use public transport.





# Information on quarantine



It has been developed general recommendations on the format of work for projects of prevention and OST



Thematic leaflets have been distributed to inform OST about safe behavior in high-risk COVID-19 environments.



Supported online information platform (zpt.org.ua). All materials ( from Alliance, MoH, CDC, WHO) are added promptly.



Presents relevant information on the Alliance website and Facebook page



The mobile application has been updated to provide specialists and patients with convenient and prompt information on up-to-date information, including COVID-19.

## Procurement and provision of personal protective equipment (masks, disinfectants) for NGOs and State Criminal Executive Service of Ukraine institutions



# Success stories during COVID-19

Life has not stopped on quarantine - OST clients keep sharing their success stories with us!

