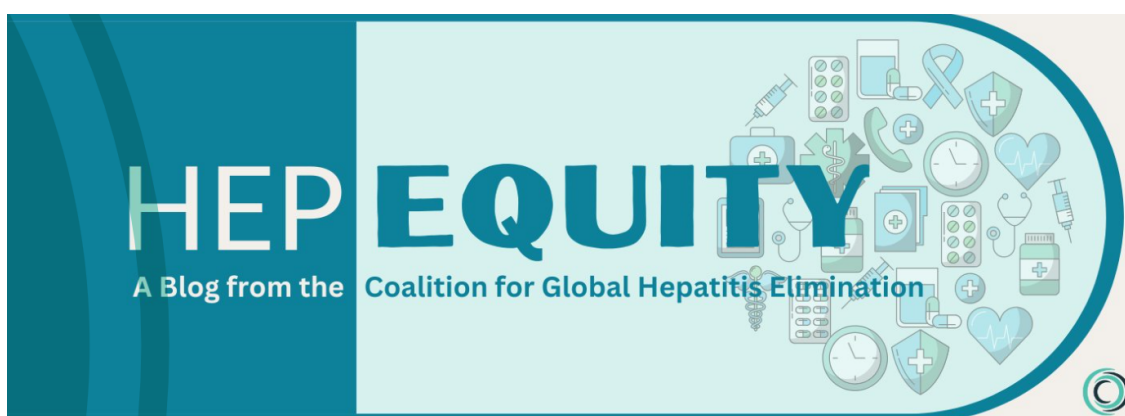


HCVAction

Bringing you the latest hepatitis C news and events

June 2023

HCV Action Chair Professor Ryder publishes blog on elimination progress



Professor Steve Ryder, Chair of [HCV Action](#), has [written a contribution](#) for the [Coalition for Global Hepatitis Elimination's HepEquity blog](#) about the lessons that can be learned so far from England's hepatitis C elimination programme.

Professor Ryder outlines some of the key elements of the elimination programme that might be applied in other programmes seeking to overcome treatment barriers. He highlights the peer-to-peer model for healthcare delivery that is central to reaching marginalised patient groups and breaking down stigma, and openness to experimentation and innovation to best adapt services to local contexts.

The blog post leads on from the [HCV Action](#) report from earlier this year, '[Taking the Initiative: how England is eliminating hepatitis C](#)'. The report offers a comprehensive overview of England's elimination programme, outlining the stakeholders and steps involved in eliminating hepatitis C as a public health threat in England, and how the [NHS England](#) 'elimination deal' has driven progress. Importantly, Professor Ryder notes in his blog that this funding arrangement is due to come to an end in April 2024, and that there must be a

successor scheme in place by then if England is to continue to build upon the elimination progress made so far.

Next HCV Action webinar on engaging socially excluded patient groups

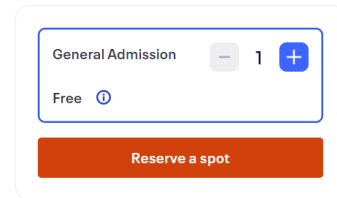
Jul 13

Webinar: Engaging socially excluded groups - lessons from hepatitis C

This webinar will be an overview of what lessons the hepatitis C elimination programme has to offer for wider 'inclusion health' initiatives

By **HCV Action**
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The next [HCV Action](#) webinar will take place on July 13th from 11:00am – 12:30pm, on the topic of 'inclusion health' and hepatitis C. The event will explore lessons from the hepatitis C elimination programme for engaging socially excluded (or 'inclusion health') groups.

Inclusion health is a catch-all term used to describe people who are socially excluded, typically experience multiple overlapping risk factors for poor health (such as poverty, violence and complex trauma), experience stigma and discrimination, and are not consistently accounted for in electronic records (such as healthcare databases). These experiences frequently lead to barriers in access to healthcare and extremely poor health outcomes.

We will hear during the webinar from a range of speakers with different perspectives on inclusion health initiatives, including: Dr Binta Sultan (Consultant Physician in Inclusion Health, [University College London Hospital](#)); Mark Gillyon-Powell (Head of Programme – HCV Elimination, [NHS England](#)); and Dr Ryan Buchanan (Associate Professor of Hepatology, [University of Southampton](#)).

You can register for the webinar [here](#) – all registered participants will receive a link to join the event closer to the time. Please do feel free to share the event with your networks and colleagues, anyone is welcome to join and take part in the Q&A/discussion section of the event.

LJWG holds conference on London's final push for elimination



The [London Joint Working Group on Substance Use and Hepatitis C](#) (LJWG) held its 2023 annual conference this month. The event on June 9th brought together clinical, patient, and service provider voices to discuss the theme of ‘the final push for hepatitis C elimination in London’.

The event had four sessions over the course of the day: ‘Where we are now: the journey so far & what we need to do to achieve elimination’; ‘Embedding hepatitis C testing and treatment into systems to maintain elimination’; ‘Preventing new infections: rebuilding harm reduction services’; and ‘Inclusion health: Learning from successes in approaches to hepatitis C to reduce health inequalities’.

You can watch a recording of each of the sessions on the [LJWG YouTube channel](#) and read a summary thread of the key moments of the talks throughout the day on the [LJWG Twitter](#), and the slides from speakers are available [here](#).

News and reports

* The UK Government released an [update to the HIV Action Plan](#), which includes a section on the benefits of Emergency Department opt-out testing for blood-borne viruses including hepatitis C. It notes that there were 452,000 HCV tests in the first 12 months of the project. [NHS England](#) has [also published](#) that over 2,000 people with HIV or HCV have been found by the pilot.

* The [Pharmaceutical Journey](#) has [published an article](#) by Dr Ryan Buchanan and Dr Charlotte Cook about the important role that community pharmacies have to play in the elimination of hepatitis C in England.

* [The Lancet](#) has [published a paper](#) taking stock of global hepatitis elimination efforts, stating that 87% of HCV infections have still not been treated and only 21% of those infected with HCV know their diagnosis. The article calls for a new chapter in global elimination with transformational funding.

*The Lancet has also [published an article](#) on efforts to micro-eliminate hepatitis C among men who have sex with men, and complications arising from the emergence of resistance-associated substitutions.

* A piece in the [Daily Mail](#) has [been published](#) about the infected blood compensation scheme, stating that some families are not being considered as eligible for compensation due to a policy about when the person affected by the infected blood scandal died.

* The [BMC Public Health](#) journal has [published a review](#) of the barriers and enablers to HCV testing in Canada, where there is low awareness among those who are HCV positive. It finds that some of the key barriers are the self-perception of not being at risk; stigma around the condition; and a lack of awareness of treatment options.

* A [meta-analysis article](#) has been published by the [American Journal of Preventive Medicine](#) on the number of people completing each step from HCV screening to finishing treatment. It finds greater drop-off among marginalised groups.

Share good practice

If you would like your service to be featured as a good practice case study on the HCV Action website, have any news to share with colleagues, or would be interested in being an [HCV Action Ambassador](#), please send an email to hcvaction@hepctrust.org.uk.



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