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HCVAction

Bringing you the latest hepatitis C news and events

December 2022

HCV Action holds introduction webinar on the Elimination Deal initiatives



Hepatitis C elimination initiatives: An overview

Tuesday 13th December 2022



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On Tuesday 13th December 2022 HCV Action held our final webinar of the year, 'Hepatitis C elimination initiatives: an overview'. The webinar was designed to introduce healthcare professionals working in a related field who may have heard of the elimination deal but would benefit from a greater understand of it. 123 people tuned in to the webinar to hear the overview.

We heard a fantastic range of contributions from speakers who outlined the different aspects of the elimination deal. Mark Gillyon-Powell explained the background and overall structure of the deal, while Professor Graham Foster spoke about the progress of the needs assessment and early indications of the resulting data. Stuart Smith and Zoe Yates spoke about the benefits of peer community services with key examples of how people have been supported through testing and treatment. Lee Christensen, Kim Cornes, and Christine Baggott explained the process of conducting coordinated HCV testing for an

entire prison, and Louise Hansford outlined the work happening in drug treatment services to find and treat people with hepatitis C, highlighting improved cooperation between organisations.

If you did not get a chance to take part in the event, a full upload of it is now available on our [YouTube page](#). There is also a [thread on our Twitter](#) with some of the key points made by each speaker, if you'd like to read a brief overview of the presentations. Thank you to all our speakers for their valuable contributions and to everyone who attended on the day.

HCV Action - Look back at 2022 and forward to 2023



It's been a busy year at HCV Action, bringing together a wide range of stakeholders to learn lessons, spread awareness, and keep pressing on towards hepatitis C elimination. We have organised and hosted well-attended events and webinars, including the first in-person National Hepatitis C ODN Stakeholder Event since 2019, reaching a larger audience than ever before by adding a livestream option to the event, and our best-attended webinar to date.

In 2022, 100 in-person attendees came to the National Hepatitis C ODN Stakeholder Event, with representation from 22 of the 23 ODNs across both in-person attendance and live stream. We had a total audience of 483 people for the three HCV Action webinars in 2022 (attending on the day and accessing recording). There were 123 live attendees for our 'Hepatitis C elimination initiatives: An overview' webinar, the most for a standalone HCV Action webinar yet. There have been 1,288 online views of the Reframing Reinfection report, 59 new subscribers to HCV Action monthly e-update, and over 180 new followers to the HCV Action Twitter account in 2022.

In 2023 we will aim to support the hepatitis C professional community to achieve HCV elimination across the UK by improving prevention, diagnosis and treatment of hepatitis C, and to ensure sustainable maintenance of elimination through a transition to new arrangements for hepatitis C services. We will begin the year with the publication of our new Elimination Initiatives report in January.

We wish you a very happy new year, and look forward to an exciting 2023.

NHS England predicts elimination before WHO goal

News

NHS set to eliminate Hepatitis C ahead of rest of the world

This month, [NHS England](#) has [confirmed](#) that England is on track to be one of the earliest countries globally to eliminate hepatitis C. NHSE confirmed that deaths from HCV have already fallen by 35%, meaning that the NHS has exceeded the World Health Organisation's target of 10% by more than three-fold. Overall, NHS England believes that it is on track to eliminate hepatitis C by 2025, which is 5 years ahead of WHO global targets.

Rachel Halford, CEO of the Hepatitis C Trust, commented that "The progress that has been made towards elimination is truly astounding. We now need a final concerted effort to make sure we reach all those that may be affected and reach elimination. Investment in a national campaign to improve public awareness of hepatitis C to reduce stigma and encourage people who may have been at risk to get tested is paramount".

The news that England is at the forefront of international elimination efforts has received considerable media attention this month, with features on the subject appearing in [Sky News](#), [the Guardian](#), [Metro](#), [Forbes](#), [EuroNews](#), the [Independent](#), and many others.

News and reports

* The US outlet [Stat News](#) has [published a series](#) of articles examining the state of hepatitis C testing and treatment in the American prison system.

Following an investigation, they found that 1,013 people died of hepatitis C-related complications in states' custody since 2013, despite the availability of direct-acting antiviral tablets. Stat found large variation between states, for instance [Iowa treated less than](#) 4% of its hepatitis C-positive prison population last year. Prisons have [reportedly claimed](#) that the drugs for treatment are too expensive.

* The [Stanford Center for Population Health Sciences](#) has [conducted a retrospective](#) cohort study on the effect of direct-acting antiviral (DAA) treatments on outcomes and long-term survival rates for patients with chronic hepatitis C. The incidence per 1,000 person-years of decompensation was 28.2 in the DAA-treated group compared with 40.8 in the untreated group, and the all-cause mortality rate per 1,000 person-years was 36.5 in the DAA-treated group compared with 64.7 in the untreated group.

* [Healio](#) has published a contribution made by Norah Terrault, Chief of gastroenterology and liver diseases at the [University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine](#) on the formation of a national US plan for HCV elimination. Terrault in particular calls for a national strategy to emphasize the involvement of primary care, and she noted that America is currently not on track to achieve elimination by 2030.

* Researchers at the [University of Kentucky](#) have explored a diagnosis method designed to expedite hepatitis C testing in the US. They are investigating the possibility of a one-hour, one-step diagnosis to replace the method most commonly used in America, where results can take a couple of days to arrive, over the course of which certain patient groups can be prone to losing contact.

* A team from the [Vall d'Hebron University Hospital](#) in Spain has presented their research into the effectiveness of care reengagement at the 2022 [AASLD Liver Meeting](#). Under the ReLink programme of research, Maria Buti and her colleagues accessed data from programs in the United States, the Netherlands, France, Spain, Brazil and a group of 13 Latin American countries, reviewing 50,649 patient records, including those of 12,536 people lost to follow-up and eligible for contact. They found that 31% of people who were lost to follow-up restarted care when reengaged, and that phone calls, texts and letters to patients or their general practitioner all yielded good results in reaching people who had fallen out of care.

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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