

August 2016

HCV Action brings together hepatitis C health professionals from across the patient pathway with the pharmaceutical industry and patient representatives to share expertise and good practice.

News & reports...

* Do you work in Scotland with people living with viral hepatitis? If so, register for the first ever National Hepatitis Workers Forum, which is being held in Glasgow on Wednesday 17th August. To register, click [here](#).

* A joint investigation by the [British Medical Journal \(BMJ\)](#), [Bath University](#) and the [University of Cambridge](#) has detailed the lengths to which NHS England has sought to limit access to new hepatitis C treatments. The article can be read [here](#).

* [Hepatitis Scotland](#) have released a series of videos involving patients telling their hepatitis C stories. The videos, which make for essential viewing for anyone working in hepatitis C services, can be viewed [here](#).

* In one of his last acts as Prime Minister, David Cameron announced the UK Government's final proposals for reforms to the infected blood support scheme. Details on the proposals (which, crucially, no longer include providing access to hepatitis C treatment as part of the payment scheme), can be found [here](#).

* A new study, details on which can be found [here](#), has concluded that the incidence of liver cancer among people who are co-infected with hepatitis C and HIV is increasing.

HCV Action and PHE to stage good practice event in Bristol



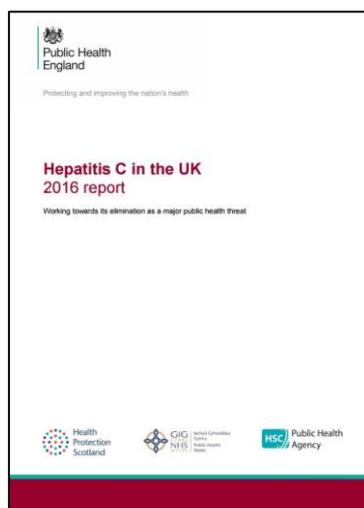
HCV Action and Public Health England (PHE) have announced that the next hepatitis C

good practice roadshow will be held in Bristol on 21st September. The event is the latest in a series of highly popular roadshows held across England, with previous roadshows being held in Liverpool, London, Birmingham, Brighton and Newcastle, and comes at a crucial time given the recent establishment of the Operational Delivery Network structures.

The roadshow will seek to bring together individuals working across hepatitis C services and strategy in Bristol and the surrounding area, with the aim of highlighting and promoting good practice, as well as acting as a forum for discussions about how to address specific local issues.

Featuring a range of talks and workshops covering issues such as new treatments for hepatitis C, the hepatitis C commissioning landscape, hepatitis C in prisons, and awareness and testing in drug services, the event is free to attend. With previous roadshow events being fully booked, early registration is strongly advised. You can view further details about the event and book your place [here](#).

Hepatitis C in the UK 2016 report released



World Hepatitis Day, on 28th July, heralded the release of PHE's 'Hepatitis C in the UK 2016' report. The report, which provides an overview of the current hepatitis C landscape across the UK, estimates that 214,000 people across the UK are living with hepatitis C, with injecting drug use continuing to be the most significant risk factor.

The report, which can be read [here](#), also finds that the numbers of people diagnosed with the virus are still low, with "positive results often failing to successfully link individuals into treatment and care services." It does contain the news that the number of treatment initiations across the UK are estimated to have

risen from around 6,400 in previous years to 8,970 in 2015. However, this still means that only 4.2% of people with the virus in the UK are receiving treatment.

Helen Harris, of PHE, said: "Many people may be unaware of their infection because they have only mild or no symptoms. If we don't do more to identify

Share your good practice...

If you would like your service to be featured as a good practice case study on the HCV Action website, please send an email to hcvaction@hepctrust.org.uk.

We want to keep HCV Action's membership updated on news and events from across the country.

If you have any news you would like to share with colleagues or would like to publicise an event please email details to hcvaction@hepctrust.org.uk.

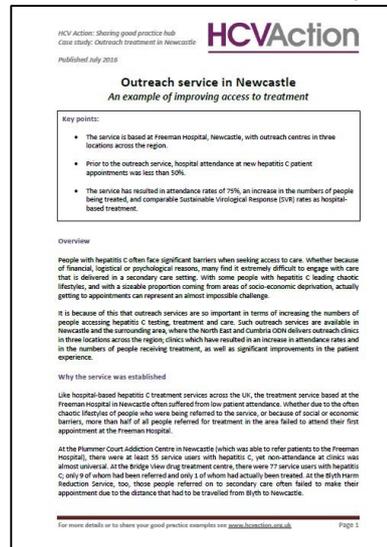
these people, they are likely to remain unaware of their risk until they present with advanced disease. Health care professionals in primary care and other settings should therefore consider hepatitis C testing in people who may be at risk."

New HCV Action good practice case study highlights innovative outreach model

HCV Action have this month published a new good practice case study on an

outreach treatment service in Newcastle. The service, which is based at the Freeman Hospital, involves the delivery of hepatitis C treatment in three outreach centres across the North East of England.

Prior to the establishment of the outreach service, attendance at hospital-based hepatitis C patient appointments was less than 50%. Since the introduction of the outreach services, however, this figure has risen to 75%, with an accompanying rise in the numbers of people being treated and achieving a Sustained Virological Response (SVR).



The case study, which can be read [here](#), provides details on why the service was established, how it operates, and the successes it has achieved.

*HCV Action is co-funded by AbbVie, BMS, Gilead, and MSD.
The Hepatitis C Trust provides secretariat support to HCV Action*

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