

August 2017

*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.*

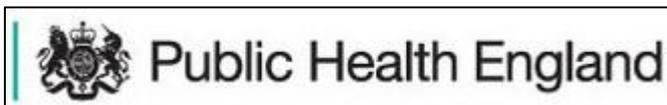
### News & reports...

\* A new article providing an overview of associations between HCV infection and cardiovascular disease has been published by [Infectious Disease Advisor](#). The article references a meta-analysis of 22 studies published in 2016, which found that HCV patients had a higher risk of cardiovascular disorders, and findings from long-term treatment studies which also support the relationship. Read the article [here](#).

\* A paper on low levels of hepatitis C diagnosis and testing uptake among people who inject image and performance enhancing drugs (IPEDs) has been published in the journal [Drug and Alcohol Dependence](#). The article analyses data from a survey taken by people injecting IPEDs across England and Wales between 2012 and 2015. The survey indicates that less than two-fifths of users had been tested for hepatitis C, and that most of those who exclusively inject IPEDs were not aware of their HCV status. The study is available [here](#).

\* The [European Commission](#) has approved two new pan-genotypic direct acting antiviral treatments, AbbVie's Maviret and Gilead's Vosevi, following an accelerated review. The treatments have proven effective in 99% of patients across all genotypes. Further details can be found [here](#).

## PHE publishes annual Hepatitis C in the UK report



Public Health England has published its ninth annual Hepatitis C in the UK report,

providing an update on the number of new hepatitis C infections and efforts to reduce mortality from HCV.

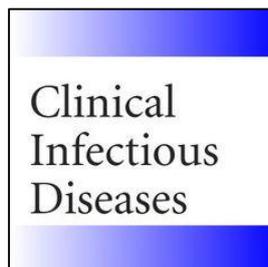
The report finds that new cases of HCV-related end-stage liver disease and hepatocellular carcinoma have remained relatively stable. However, data suggest a fall in deaths from hepatitis-C related diseases of 3% between 2014 and 2015, with provisional data suggesting a further fall of 7% in 2016.

The report suggests that increased treatment with new direct acting antiviral (DAA) drugs means the UK is well-placed to meet WHO Global Health Sector Strategy goals in reducing morbidity and mortality, as long as increases in testing and treatment can be sustained. However, with no reduction in the rate of new infections, the report concludes that greater effort will be required to meet GHSS goals to reduce new cases of chronic HCV by 30% by 2020 and 80% by 2030.

A [blog post](#) from PHE accompanying the report highlights the data showing a sustained decline in mortality over the last two years. However, the blog identifies continuing challenges, including meeting treatment targets and sustaining a continued decline in mortality and new infections.

You can read the full report in the [HCV Action](#) resource library [here](#).

## Study finds DAA treatment reduces risk of mortality in 18 months following treatment



A newly published study in the *Clinical and Infectious Diseases* journal has found that treatment for hepatitis C with direct acting antivirals (DAAs) is associated with a 57% reduction in the risk of death in the first 18 months after treatment.

The research is thought to be the first large-scale study to show the long-term beneficial effects of DAA treatments. Researchers compared survival between people who had completed treatment with one of two all-DAA regimens and an untreated control group, with almost 7000 people in each group.

\* A study published in August by the [Annals of Internal Medicine](#) found that hepatitis C patients treated by GPs and nurses achieved a sustained virological response (SVR) rate comparable to those treated by specialists. It concludes that primary care providers can deliver HCV treatments safely and effectively. The study is the first comparing the efficacy and safety of treatment by specialists versus non-specialists. Read a summary of the study [here](#).

\* Two new reports have been added to the [HCV Action](#) resource library this month. The 'Road to Elimination' report from the [Boston Consulting Group](#) provides an overview and comparison of HCV care across Europe and Australia. The second resource, a [report from Public Health England](#), presents a summary of data from the Unlinked Anonymous Monitoring Survey of HIV and Viral Hepatitis among People who Inject Drugs in the UK. The survey found 53% of injecting drug users who participated were hepatitis C antibody positive, significantly higher than the 44% found to be antibody positive in 2006.

\* Professor Mark Thursz, chair of the [Hepatitis C Coalition](#), has written for [The Huffington Post](#) on what more needs to be done to achieve the elimination of hepatitis C in the UK. The article highlights the detrimental effects of NHS treatment restrictions and the need for greater outreach to the undiagnosed. Read the article [here](#).

\* The [London Joint Working Group on Substance Use and Hepatitis C](#) will host its 7<sup>th</sup> annual conference, on the 26<sup>th</sup> September, with a focus on addressing hepatitis C elimination. The LJWG has announced that Steve Brine MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health, will deliver the keynote speech. The conference is free to attend and you can register [here](#).

\* Marc Bulterys, team leader of the global hepatitis programme at the [World Health Organisation](#), spoke

The study also found that while between 17 and 20% of people in the treatment group had a history of drug or alcohol abuse, this was not associated with lower chances of survival.

The study can be read in the [Clinical and Infectious Diseases](#) journal, available through Oxford University Press [here](#). A news story summarising the findings is available [here](#).

## HCV Action publishes good practice case study on Oxford Liaison Service



HCV Action has this month published a new good practice case study, focusing on [Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust's](#) community outreach work.

In 2015, the Trust surveyed injecting drug users in Oxfordshire, finding that a third of respondents had never been offered a hepatitis C test.

Following the survey findings, the Trust established a Liaison Service in partnership with Turning Point, the provider of all substance misuse services in Oxfordshire. Substance misuse staff were trained by the Trust to independently test clients for

hepatitis C.

As a result of the partnership, almost 600 tests were carried out in substance misuse services over the course of the last year. 54 clients were diagnosed with hepatitis C, with 13 having already received treatment and 25 awaiting treatment.

The case study can be accessed [here](#).

## Last chance to register for HCV Action/PHE Hepatitis C Good Practice Roadshow in Leeds



HCV Action and Public Health England will host their second Hepatitis C Good Practice Roadshow of 2017 in Leeds on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

The roadshow will bring together health professionals, drug service workers, public health specialists and others from across West Yorkshire for a day of talks and workshops. The day will highlight local good practice and act as a forum for discussion about local challenges and solutions surrounding hepatitis C.

It will feature a range of talks and workshops on topics such as local

to [Pharmaceutical Journal](#) about progress towards elimination. The discussion covered the costs and availabilities of new treatments, advances in treatment provision, and comparisons of different countries' progress towards elimination. Read the interview [here](#).

\* On World Hepatitis Day, John Biggs, Mayor of Tower Hamlets, highlighted the provision of borough-wide screening for hepatitis C in GP surgeries in Tower Hamlets. The screening is part of the HepFree study into engagement in primary care settings, due to publish its conclusions later this year. Read the Tower Hamlets press release on the initiative [here](#).

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](mailto: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](mailto:hcvaction@hepctrust.org.uk).

epidemiology, treatments and possibilities for elimination, and the hepatitis C commissioning landscape. The event will also include patient perspectives and good practice case studies from the local area. A full agenda can be found [here](#).

The event is free to attend and a limited number of places are still available - register [here](#).

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

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