

February 2018

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...

* [The Hepatitis C Trust](#) is looking to recruit four Peer Support Leads, with one position in each of Merseyside & Cheshire, South Yorkshire, the North East and West Yorkshire. Peer support leads will be responsible for supporting peers delivering key hepatitis C messages within substance misuse and hostel services across the relevant area. The application deadline is Thursday 8th March and further information about the roles can be seen [here](#).

* [HCV Action](#) held its third #HCVchat on Twitter in late February, with Dr Iain Brew, Speciality Doctor, Viral Hepatitis at [Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust](#) taking over the [HCV Action](#) Twitter account to discuss and answer questions on hepatitis C in primary care. The discussion can be viewed on the #HCVchat thread on Twitter [here](#) (tweets will appear in reverse chronological order). If you have an idea for a future topic for a #HCVchat or would like to be informed when one is taking place, please email hcvaction@hepctrust.org.uk or tweet us at [@HCVAction](#).

* A new study published in the [Journal of Hepatology](#) found that requirements for eliminating hepatitis C among people who inject drugs in Europe include simultaneous scale-up of direct-acting antiviral treatment, needle and syringe programmes (NSP) and opioid substitution therapy (OST), as well as a change in approach towards drug policy and harm reduction in Central European

Have you been inspired to make changes to your service based on an example of good practice highlighted by HCV Action? We'd love to hear from you so we can highlight your work. You can email us at hcvaction@hepctrust.org.uk.

APPG on Liver Health announces 'Eliminating Hepatitis C in England' report release date



The All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Liver Health has announced that it will be publishing its 'Eliminating Hepatitis C in England' report on Wednesday 21st March, following a launch event in Parliament on 20th March.

The report will outline the findings from an inquiry conducted by the APPG in late 2017 into the elimination of hepatitis C in England. Three oral evidence sessions were held as part of the inquiry, featuring a range of expert stakeholders

answering questions from APPG members. Written evidence was also received from a range of individuals and organisations. Based on this evidence, the report will make a series of recommendations for further action to ensure England meets its commitment to eliminate hepatitis C by 2030 at the latest.

The launch event will feature talks from Parliamentarians with an interest in hepatitis C, including APPG on Liver Health Co-Chairs Sir David Amess MP, Baroness Randerson and Baroness Masham, along with Virendra Sharma MP and Norman Lamb MP. A talk will also be delivered on the value of peer-to-peer talks in raising awareness of hepatitis C and encouraging those at risk to get tested and treated. For further details and updates on the inquiry and report, see the APPG on Liver Health website [here](#), and follow the APPG's Twitter account [here](#).

HCV Action staging ODN event with NHS England Midlands & East



Final preparations are underway for the HCV Action and NHS England Midlands & East Hepatitis C ODN Educational Event 2018, taking place on Friday 9th March in Nottingham. Tickets for the event are now fully booked.

The event will feature progress updates from all four ODNs in the Midlands & East region, with Professor David Mutimer providing an update on the West Midlands Hep C ODN, Dr Martin

countries. The full study report can be read [here](#).

* New research published in the [International Journal of Drug Policy](#) revealed low awareness of the effectiveness of new direct-acting antiviral treatments for hepatitis C among people who inject drugs (PWID). The study, based on a national survey of PWID attending injecting equipment provision sites in Scotland during 2015-16, found that 79% of respondents were aware of hepatitis C treatment, but just 17% were aware of the high cure rates of DAA treatments. The study report can be accessed [here](#).

* In early February 2018, the [European Study for the Association of the Liver \(EASL\)](#) held a monothematic conference in Berlin titled 'Striving towards the elimination of HCV infection'. Following the event, slides, webcasts, e-posters and learning quizzes have been made available on the EASL website and can be accessed [here](#).

* The [World Hepatitis Alliance](#) is currently conducting a study as part of their programme to 'find the missing millions'. The study aims to gather stakeholders' views on the barriers to diagnosis of hepatitis B and C in countries around the world. The study takes less than ten minutes to complete and can be accessed [here](#).

* Two [University of Manchester](#) academics have written a piece for [The Conversation](#) examining the prospects for England eliminating hepatitis C by 2025. This follows [NHS England's](#) announcement in January 2018 that it would aim to eliminate the virus five years earlier than the [World Health Organization](#) target of elimination by 2030. The authors argue that the goal is achievable, but that there are significant challenges to overcome. The article can be read [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.

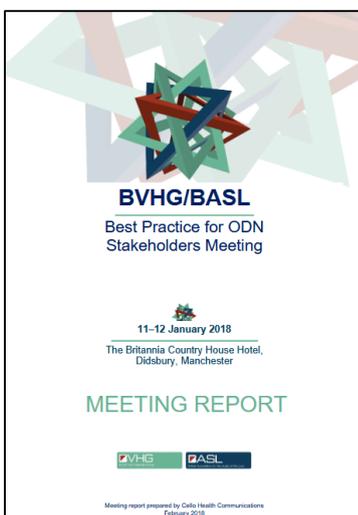
We want to keep HCV Action's membership updated on news and events from across the country.

Wiselka on the East Midlands Hep C ODN, Dr Will Gelson on the Eastern Hep C ODN and Kate Jack on the Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire and Derbyshire ODN.

In addition to ODN progress updates, the event will also feature a range of other talks, including Dr Andrew Ustianowski on hepatitis C elimination, global strategies and how England is progressing; Matthew Hickman, Kirsty Roberts and John Macleod from [Bristol Medicine School](#) on the 'Hepatitis C – Assessment to Treatment Trial' (HepCATT) in primary care; and Dr Ahmed Elsharkawy on hepatitis C treatment community outreach in Birmingham.

Presentation slides from the day and a summary report will be available on the [HCV Action](#) website shortly after the event. The presentation slides from the Hepatitis C ODN Educational Event 2017 can be accessed [here](#) and the summary report [here](#). The full programme for the 2018 event can be accessed [here](#).

Report from BVHG/BASL ODN Stakeholders meeting released



In January 2018, the [British Viral Hepatitis Group \(BVHG\)](#) and the [British Association for the Study of the Liver \(BASL\)](#) held their first Best Practice for ODN Stakeholders meeting in Manchester, attended by ODN representatives from across the country, along with representatives from NHS England, patient advocacy groups and industry.

A summary report from the meeting has now been released, summarising the key themes that emerged from the meeting and highlighting examples of best practice for treating hepatitis C. The report also makes suggestions for a modified and improved approach to achieving

hepatitis C elimination in England, with a series of recommendations focusing on three areas: testing and treatment; education, communication and engagement; and management and administration. The report is available to read [here](#).

The BVHG is a group of hepatologists, gastroenterologists, infectious disease physicians, nurses and allied professionals as well as virologists, epidemiologists and scientists with an interest in viral disease of the liver, chaired by Dr Ahmed Elsharkawy. You can find out more about the work of the BVHG [here](#).

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

Visit www.hcvaction.org.uk and follow us on Twitter [@HCVAction](#) 

Please encourage colleagues to join HCV Action for free hepatitis C related updates and tools by emailing their full contact details to hcvaction@hepctrust.org.uk.

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.