

January 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...

\* [Healthcare Improvement Scotland](#) and [NHS National Services Scotland](#) have released updated National Clinical Guidelines for the treatment of hepatitis C. The guidelines provide expert guidance to Health Boards, Area Drug and Therapeutics Committees and treating clinicians on the efficacy of available treatments for hepatitis C. The updated guidance is available to read [here](#).

\* Slides from December's [HCV Action](#) and [Public Health England](#) hepatitis C good practice roadshow in Manchester are available to view [here](#). The slides are taken from the day's presentations, as well as from the three afternoon workshops, and provide a host of relevant information for anyone concerned with tackling hepatitis C at both a local or national level. A full summary report of the roadshow will be coming soon.

\* The [Scottish Medicines Consortium](#) this month approved the use of hepatitis C treatment Elbasvir-grazoprevir (known as Zepatier) for people with genotypes 1a, 1b or 4. The full guidance can be read [here](#).

\* The 2016 Hep-CORE report was released by the [European Liver Patients Association](#) (ELPA) earlier this month. The report provides an overview of the progress made in tackling hepatitis B and C across a range of European countries, on the basis of surveys undertaken

## HCV Action & NHS England prepare for Midlands and East ODN event



Final preparations are underway for the Midlands and East Hepatitis C Educational Event, hosted by HCV Action and NHS England. The event is taking place on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February in Nottingham, with places now fully booked up.

The event is aimed at enhancing local service provision and seizing the opportunity for progress provided by a new generation of highly effective hepatitis C drugs. The main areas of focus will be:

- Updates from the hepatitis C Operational Delivery Networks (ODNs) in the Midlands and East region
- Showcasing and sharing good practice in the prevention, testing, diagnosis and treatment of hepatitis C
- Identifying specific issues and potential solutions for tackling hepatitis C in the Midlands and East.

The event will be attended by drug service professionals, commissioners and health professionals working across the Midlands and East, and will include talks and workshops on the hepatitis C landscape in the region, with a particular focus on increasing ODN effectiveness.

The full agenda for the event can be found [here](#).

## Hepatitis C prison project launched in Scotland



[Waverley Care](#), the HIV and hepatitis C charity that works across Scotland, has launched a new project working with prisoners in HMP Barlinnie in Glasgow.

The project will provide support to individuals who are newly diagnosed, or who are already aware of their hepatitis C status, while in prison. A key part of the project is to prepare individuals for their release from prison, ensuring that treatment is maintained and helping them to access support services following release.

with patient organisations. The report is available in the HCV Action Resource Library [here](#).

\* [Hepatitis Scotland](#) is offering free blood borne virus (BBV) training in Glasgow on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February. The training course will raise awareness of key issues relating to BBVs, with the main focus on hepatitis C. Full information and details on booking (with a deadline of Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February) are available [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.

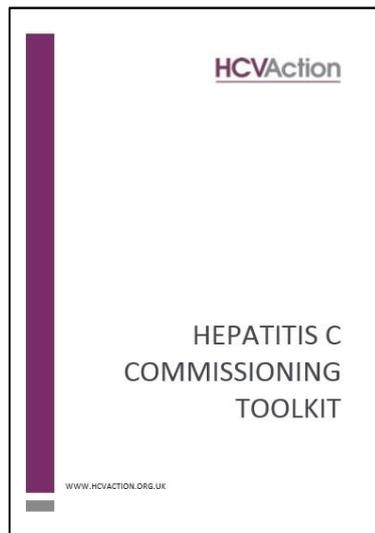
If you have any news you would like to share with colleagues or would like to publicise an event please email details to [hcvaction@hepctrust.org.uk](mailto:hcvaction@hepctrust.org.uk).

Support will also be provided in prison to aid rehabilitation, working with individuals to help them talk about issues, like recovery from drug use, which in many cases will be a factor in both their hepatitis C diagnosis and their offending.

Around one in five of the prison population in Scotland are thought to be living with hepatitis C and the Scottish Government is aiming to increase testing for the virus in prisons.

Full details of the project can be seen [here](#).

## Hepatitis C Commissioning Toolkit published in December



HCV Action published the revised **Hepatitis C Commissioning Toolkit** in December, an update on the original toolkit which was first published in September 2013.

The updated toolkit identifies key commissioning responsibilities, with the aim of clarifying the highly fragmented and complex commissioning landscape. The toolkit will support commissioners in commissioning cost-effective services which are most effective for people with hepatitis C, by setting out how to ensure a clear, connected and properly funded hepatitis C care pathway, as well as providing good practice examples.

The toolkit will also help service providers to understand the commissioning process, aiding efforts to increase hepatitis C testing and treatment. As such, the toolkit will be an invaluable resource for everyone working in the field of hepatitis C. You can access the toolkit [here](#).

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