

July 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.

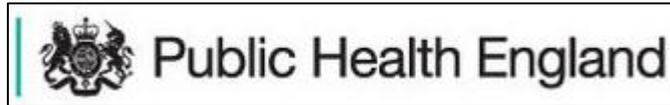
News & reports...

* Tomorrow (Friday 28th July) is World Hepatitis Day. [The Hepatitis C Trust](#) has compiled a list of events and activities taking place across the UK to mark the day, which can be accessed [here](#).

* The [Foundation for Liver Research](#) this month published 'Financial case for action on liver disease'. The report, endorsed by the [Lancet Commission on Liver Disease](#), examines the financial costs of viral hepatitis, along with alcohol misuse and obesity, and reaffirms the long-term cost-effectiveness of treating patients for hepatitis C. The report also carries recommendations, which include improving access to testing for hepatitis C and protecting harm reduction services such as needle exchange and opioid substitution for injecting drug users. The report can be accessed in the [HCV Action resource library](#) [here](#).

* [HCV Action](#) staged a #HCVchat on Twitter in July, hosted by Dr Ahmed Elsharkawy, Consultant Hepatologist, [University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust](#). Dr Elsharkawy answered questions and facilitated discussion on the subject of hepatitis C treatment in community settings. The full discussion is available to read [here](#) (tweets will appear in reverse chronological order). The #HCVchat was the second staged by [HCV Action](#) in 2017, with more planned later in the year. Look out for details on the [HCV Action](#)

HCV Action & PHE announce Leeds hepatitis C event



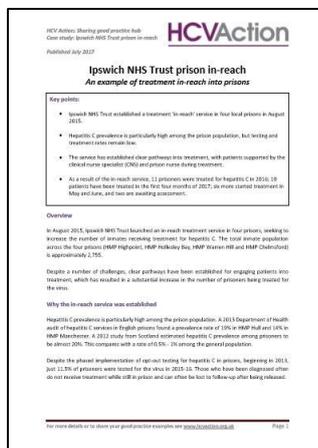
HCV Action and Public Health England (PHE) have announced the latest hepatitis C good

practice roadshow, with booking now open for the event taking place in Leeds on Wednesday 6th September 2017. The roadshow is the second of the year, with the first having taken place in Cambridge in May, and will be part of a broader 'action week' in the Leeds area, involving a range of other activities aimed at raising local awareness and promoting increased action to tackle hepatitis C.

The roadshow will bring together individuals working in hepatitis C services and strategy across West Yorkshire, including clinicians, nurses, drug service professionals and commissioners, with the aim of highlighting and promoting good practice, and hosting 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 South Asian communities, and awareness and testing in drug services, the event is free to attend. With previous roadshow events having been fully booked, early registration is strongly advised. You can view further details about the event and book your place [here](#).

HCV Action publishes good practice case study on Ipswich prison in-reach service



HCV Action has this month published a new good practice case study, focusing on Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust's prison in-reach service.

The service, which runs in four prisons in Ipswich, began in August 2015 and has established clear pathways into treatment for patients diagnosed with hepatitis C.

A number of challenges were overcome to establish the service, such as gaining access to the prison IT and security systems, tracking the results of blood tests, maintaining engagement with patients after

release from prison and medication delivery problems.

[Twitter page](#) or email hcvaction@hepctrust.org.uk if you would like to be notified of future hepatitis C Twitter discussions.

* The number of patients who commenced treatment for hepatitis C in England in the 2016/17 financial year were revealed this month by Health Minister Lord O'Shaughnessy in response to a Written Parliamentary Question from Baroness Randerson. The data, which shows that 9,440 patients received treatment between April 2016 and April 2017, is also broken down by ODN and can be viewed [here](#).

* [The Lancet](#) has published a new article in its [Psychiatry](#) journal, titled 'Ending HIV, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C: what about people with severe mental illness?'. The article refers to previous research showing severe mental illness as a risk factor for contracting blood-borne viruses (BBVs) and concludes that increased uptake of prevention and intervention strategies for HIV, HBV and HCV are required in mental health settings to eliminate the viruses as public health threats. The article can be read [here](#).

* [HCV Action](#) has published a template Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), to be used by ODNs. The resource, produced in partnership with the Eastern Hepatitis Network, is designed to be used by ODNs to agree the responsibilities, obligations and rights of each party when collaborating with other services. The template MOU is available in the [HCV Action](#) resource library [here](#).

* [Harvard Health Publications](#) this month carried a blog on the risk of mother-child hepatitis C transmission during pregnancy. The blog covers testing for hepatitis C, factors that increase the risk of mother-child transmission and potential responses, including routine screening of all pregnant women for hepatitis C. The blog can be viewed [here](#).

As a result of the in-reach service, 11 prisoners were treated for hepatitis C in 2016; 10 patients were treated in the first four months of 2017; six more started treatment in May and June; and two are awaiting assessment.

The good practice case study can be read on the [HCV Action](#) website [here](#).

HCV Action publishes summary report from North East & Cumbria ODN workshop



A summary report of the HCV Action and North East & Cumbria ODN workshop, which took place in Newcastle on Wednesday 3rd May, is now available in the [HCV Action](#) resource library.

The workshop brought together a range of stakeholders working across the hepatitis C pathway in the North East & Cumbria ODN region, with the aim of discussing some of the barriers faced by the ODN, as well as providing a forum in which to develop solutions to some of these challenges.

The workshop included a discussion led by Dr Stuart McPherson (ODN Clinical Lead) and Dr Sarah Morey (Hepatitis C Network Manager) on the challenges and opportunities for the ODN, as well as a presentation by [The Hepatitis C Trust's](#) Stuart Smith of on the benefits of peer-to-peer support programmes. The report, including summaries of the day's talks and group discussion, as well as suggested next steps to be taken following the event, can be read [here](#).

HCV Action's next ODN workshop will be held in collaboration with the Bristol & Severn ODN in September.

Booking open for LJWG Conference: Leading London to Hepatitis C Elimination



The London Joint Working Group on Substance Use and Hepatitis C (LJWG) has opened booking for its seventh annual conference. This year's conference is themed around 'leading London to hepatitis C elimination' and will take place on Tuesday 26th September 2017.

The conference is free to attend and will be divided into three sessions, focusing on 'strategic decision making and action', 'interventions for impact' and 'action in ODNs'. Speakers at the event will include Charles Gore, Chief Executive of [The Hepatitis C Trust](#), Stephen Waring, Director for STPs, [NHS England](#), Viv Evans, CEO of [Adfam](#), and Prof Graham Foster, Clinical Lead for Hepatitis C, [NHS England](#).

As well as talks on the challenges and opportunities for tackling hepatitis C in London, the conference will feature a panel discussion and workshops led by each of the London ODNs. There will also be presentations on finding patients in homeless populations, via community pharmacy testing and through in-reach to prisons.

Full details of the conference and registration are available [here](#).

* Members of the [European Parliament](#) (MEPs) this month passed a resolution calling on the [European Commission](#) to produce a plan to standardise screening, testing and treatment protocols to make progress in eliminating hepatitis C. [European Parliament](#) resolutions are non-binding but suggest a political desire to act and can influence the Commission's work. The [European Parliament](#) press release 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.

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.

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