

HCVAction

Bringing you the latest hepatitis C news and events

June 2018

News & Reports

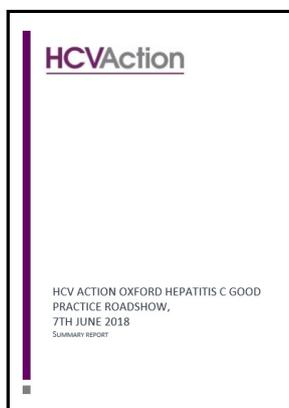
* [The Hepatitis C Trust](#) is currently advertising for two staff vacancies. The Trust are looking to recruit a new Deputy Chief Executive (closing date: 11th July) and a Northern Regional Lead (closing date: 2nd July). Information on both position can be found [here](#).

* In other recruitment news, [Hepatitis Scotland](#) are looking to recruit a new Community Development and Involvement Officer (closing date: 6th July), with the role being vacated by Leslie Bon, whose reflections on the role are featured in the latest [Hepatitis Scotland newsletter here](#). Full details of the Community Development and Involvement Officer position can be found [here](#).

* The number of liver transplantations due to hepatitis C-related decompensated cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma has declined significantly in the three years since the arrival of DAA treatments, according to data from the European Liver Transplant Registry. Three-year post-transplant survival also improved in patients with hepatitis C-related decompensated cirrhosis from 65.1% in the interferon era to 76.9% in the DAA era. The full study is available [here](#), with a summary write-up [here](#).

* New research published in the [Journal of NeuroVirology](#) suggests that DAA therapy for hepatitis C is likely to lead to improvements in patients with mental health and

HCV Action releases Oxford roadshow summary report and slides



The first [HCV Action](#) hepatitis C good practice roadshow of 2018 took place in Oxford on 7th June, bringing together around 80 individuals from primary and secondary care, substance misuse services, prison health teams, public health bodies and local authorities, amongst others.

A summary report from the roadshow is now available in the [HCV Action](#) resource library [here](#), along with all the presentation slides [here](#). The summary report features details of the morning's presentations and full reports from the three afternoon workshops, focusing on finding solutions to challenges faced by the Operational Delivery Network, hepatitis C in drug services and hepatitis C in prisons.

As part of wider activity in the area following the roadshow, [The Hepatitis C Trust](#)'s testing van visited Oxford on 26th and 27th June, with [The Hepatitis C Trust](#)'s peer support team joining with staff from [John Radcliffe Hospital](#) and the [Turning Point](#) substance misuse service to offer testing and advice on hepatitis C.

MPs debate hepatitis C elimination



MPs this month held a debate on hepatitis C elimination, following the release earlier this year of the [All-Party Parliamentary Group on Liver Health's](#)

'Eliminating Hepatitis C in England' [report](#).

The debate was led by APPG on Liver Health Co-Chair Sir David Amess MP and featured contributions from MPs from a range of different parties. The need for an awareness

fatigue problems, with preliminary data indicating an improvement in cognitive functions after DAA therapy. The authors say that neuroinflammatory processes in patients with hepatitis C suggest a direct central nervous system infection by hepatitis C. The full paper can be accessed [here](#), with a summary of the findings available [here](#).

* A new 'Be Blood Aware (Wales)' awareness-raising video on hepatitis C, developed and funded by [AbbVie](#), has been released ahead of World Hepatitis Day. The video shares messages about potential hepatitis C transmission risks and can be [viewed on YouTube here](#).

* Dates and locations have been agreed for the next two [HCV Action](#) hepatitis C good practice roadshows. The second roadshow of the year will take place in Kent on Wednesday 5th September, with the third taking place in Sheffield on Wednesday 17th October. Event registration is not yet open for either - keep an eye on the [HCV Action Twitter page](#) and future e-updates for further updates.

Share your good practice...

If you would like your service to be featured as a good practice case study on the HCV Action website, or if you have any news to share with colleagues, please send an email to hcvaction@hepctrust.org.uk.

campaign for hepatitis C was repeatedly highlighted, along with the importance of increasing testing rates and removing any restrictions on access to treatment.

Responding on behalf of the Government, Public Health Minister Steve Brine MP said that the Government is committed to "meeting and beating" the [World Health Organization](#) goal of elimination by 2030. The debate [can be watched in full here](#), with a [transcript also available here](#). The Public Health Minister's comments in the debate on expanding hepatitis C testing in community pharmacies were also reported by [Chemist and Druggist here](#).

Earlier in the month, Health Minister Lord O'Shaughnessy expressed regret at the restrictions placed on access to hepatitis C treatments in England following the arrival of direct acting antiviral (DAA) treatments, in comments reported by the [Health Service Journal here](#).

Hepatitis C article featured in Nursing Times Journal Club



An article on hepatitis C was featured as part of the [Nursing Times' Journal Club](#) last month, focusing on the need to increase treatment uptake to eliminate hepatitis C.

The [Nursing Times Journal Club](#) aims to support nurses to increase knowledge and improve practice, through the dissemination of an article focusing on a specific area of healthcare each month.

The hepatitis C article, produced by Gemma Botterill, Hepatitis Clinical Nurse Specialist at [University Hospitals Birmingham Foundation Trust](#), provides key information about hepatitis C, including symptoms, transmission risks and treatment options.

The article also uses [Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham's](#) work to re-engage hepatitis C patients lost to follow-up as a case study, outlining the effectiveness of letters sent to consultants, clinical nurse specialists and GPs, as well as directly to patients, in re-engaging those lost to follow-up. Further details are provided on outreach work in a GP clinic and a substance misuse service in Birmingham, aimed at injecting drug users, and in-reach to a local prison. [The full article can be accessed 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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