

March 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.

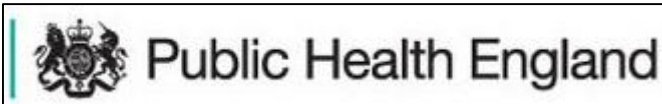
News & reports...

* The [World Hepatitis Summit](#) has launched a call for submissions inviting individuals, groups and organisations to outline their work in response to viral hepatitis in their nation, region or community, including scientific, social and community research, programmes, policies and products. Successful applicants will be invited to present their work at the World Hepatitis Summit 2017, taking place in São Paulo, Brazil from 1st – 3rd November. Full details can be found on the 'Call for Submissions' page [here](#).

* [Health Protection Scotland](#) has published the Needle Exchange Surveillance Initiative report, measuring and monitoring the prevalence of blood-borne viruses and injecting risk behaviours among people who inject drugs in Scotland. Among the findings for the 2015-16 period were that 58% of respondents were hepatitis C antibody positive, with 63% of those aware of their hepatitis C status. The full report is available in the [HCV Action](#) resource library [here](#).

* [Bristol Drugs Project](#) (BDP) has produced a 2016 Review, covering its work in 2016 and the early months of 2017. The report highlights BDP's work to increase testing for hepatitis C among service users, which was recognised in a [HCV Action](#) good practice case study last year, available [here](#). The report also

HCV Action & PHE announce Cambridge hepatitis C event



HCV Action and Public Health England (PHE) have announced that the first hepatitis C

good practice roadshow of the year will be held in Cambridge on Tuesday 9th May 2017, with booking now open. The event follows three successful roadshows held across England last year, in Newcastle, Bristol and Manchester. The roadshow will be part of a broader 'action week' in the Cambridge area, involving a range of other initiatives aimed at raising local awareness and promoting increased action to tackle the virus.

The roadshow will bring together individuals working in hepatitis C services and strategy across Cambridge and the surrounding area, 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 prisons, and awareness and testing in drug services, the event is free to attend. With previous roadshows having been fully booked, early registration is strongly advised. You can view further details about the event and book your place [here](#).

Public Health England publishes Hepatitis C in England 2017 report



Public Health England this month published its annual Hepatitis C in England report, providing an overview of progress towards tackling the virus and proposals for future action.

As well as announcing the establishment of a new National Viral Hepatitis Strategy Group, which will provide strategic direction and advice on the national approach to hepatitis C, the report's key findings include:

- 160,000 people in England have hepatitis C
- There was an estimated 8% reduction in deaths from hepatitis C-related end stage liver disease and cancer in 2015

announces the launch of BDP's new 'Hep C Support Peers' – people with lived experience of hepatitis C who will raise awareness of the virus by training staff and service users across Bristol. The full report can be accessed [here](#).

* Two leading charities – the [Terrence Higgins Trust](#) and [London Friend](#) – have launched an online counselling service for gay and bisexual men, offering support around drugs, sex and alcohol. The service is available via the [Friday/Monday](#) website. With ChemSex a key hepatitis C transmission risk, the new service has the potential to be a valuable resource for those who are struggling to manage risk behaviour in relation to drugs and sex. More information about the service is available [here](#).

* The [Hepatitis C Coalition](#) has published its first quarterly newsletter of 2017. Items in the newsletter include updates on the [Department of Health](#) consultation on infected blood support, the work of the Drugs, Alcohol and Justice Cross-Parliamentary Group and the launch of [The Hepatitis C Trust's Patient Perspectives and Nurses' Perspectives](#) reports. You can read the full update [here](#).

* Vitamin D decreases hepatitis C cell replication and aids rapid virological response in anti-viral therapy, according to study results published in the [Hepatology Research](#) journal in February. The article can be accessed [here](#).

* A new paper in the [Current Opinion in HIV and AIDS](#) journal finds that testing levels for hepatitis C are still too low and suggests strategies to improve access such as more community-based testing, multiplex and multidisease platforms to enable testing for multiple analytes/pathogens and potential self-testing for viral hepatitis. The article, titled 'Diagnosis of viral hepatitis', can be read in full [here](#).

* New research in the [Annals of Internal Medicine](#) journal has

- Provisional data shows a 40% increase in the numbers of people receiving treatment in 2015/16 compared to the previous year
- There has been a steady increase in the number of diagnosed infections over the past two decades, reaching a peak of 11,605 reports in 2015
- Around 50% of people who inject drugs (PWIDs) surveyed were aware of their hepatitis C antibody positive status
- Needle and syringe provision has been found to be "suboptimal", with less than one half of those surveyed reporting adequate provision for their needs.

The report is available to read in full [here](#).

HCV Action publishes new good practice case study



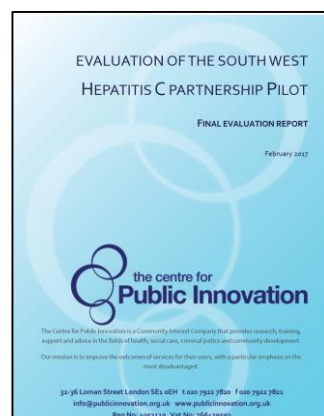
HCV Action has this month published a new good practice case study, focusing on [Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust's](#) community outreach work.

When the Trust began its community outreach work in 2002, there were low referral rates and high rates of non-attendance by hepatitis C patients at appointments. Figures show that in the 2000-02 period, just 49% of those who were diagnosed with hepatitis C were referred to a specialist clinic, 27% attended and 10% received treatment.

Following the establishment of the community outreach work, 80% of those diagnosed were referred to a specialist clinic, with 70% attending and 38% starting treatment.

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

Evaluation report of Addaction/Hepatitis C Trust project released



The final evaluation report of the [Addaction](#) and [The Hepatitis C Trust](#) Hepatitis C Partnership Project is now available on the [HCV Action](#) website. The project involved the two charities piloting three interventions aimed at supporting people with a history of injecting drug use who were engaged with [Addaction](#) services in the South West of England into hepatitis C treatment.

The report, produced by the [Centre for Public Innovation](#), evaluates the success of the pilot's three key interventions:

found that multiple oral DAA regimens show high rates of safety, tolerability and efficacy for treatment of hepatitis C genotype 1 infection, particularly among persons without cirrhosis. The full article can be read [here](#).

* Dr Verity Sullivan, a specialist registrar in sexual health and HIV, has written an article, 'Everything You Need to Know About Hepatitis C' for the website Buzzfeed, which is a useful resource for patients who require an introduction to the virus. The article can be accessed [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.

- **Peer education workshops:** In which a peer educator with lived experience of hepatitis C delivers workshops based on key messages about hepatitis C prevention, diagnosis, care and treatment to people attending drug services, rehabs, detoxes and day programmes.
- **A 'buddy' scheme:** In which those seeking or accessing hepatitis C treatment are provided with support by a 'buddy' with experience of hepatitis C and/or substance misuse.
- **Workforce development:** Delivering training to a range of **Addaction** staff (including clinical and non-clinical, paid staff and volunteers) about hepatitis C and other blood-borne viruses.

The full report is available [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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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.