

May 2015

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 **London Joint Working Group** on Substance Misuse and Hepatitis C (LJWG) have published a report, 'Measuring the impact of the recommendations of the LJWG – Learning from the pilots', available [here](#).

* HCV Action and PHE have published a summary of the **good practice hepatitis C roadshow** held on the 6 March in Liverpool, available [here](#).

* Read about Dundee CHP and Tayside BBV MCN's project to **identify patients in General Practice** with a diagnosis of hepatitis B and C in the report, 'Improving Outcomes for People with Blood Borne Viruses in Dundee', available [here](#).

* The World Health Organisation has moved to improve access to lifesaving medicines for hepatitis C, drug-resistant TB and cancers in the new edition of its **Model List of Essential Medicines**. The move opens the way to improve access to innovative medicines that show clear clinical benefits and could have enormous public health impact globally.

Share your good practice...

Please share your good practice by filling in the quick online form [here](#).

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

Pressure mounts for access to new drugs



Channel 4 News has reported on **continuing delays in access to hepatitis C treatments** and concerns that NHS England is seeking to influence NICE decisions about the new HCV treatments on the basis on affordability, rather than cost effectiveness.

NICE's assessments of Sofosbuvir in combination with Ledipasvir (known as Harvoni), Daclatasvir in combination with one or more other drugs and Ombitasvir with Paritaprevir and Dasabuvir have all been paused while NICE considers a request from NHS England to limit availability because of the cost. There is a meeting on June 23 to discuss this and at some as yet undecided point after that, a decision will be made public. This is, as far as we are aware, unprecedented.

We are expecting an announcement any day on NHS England's interim commissioning policy to allow all those with cirrhosis to get treatment with the new drugs (although already this has been delayed since April).

The Hepatitis C Trust is calling for patients and anyone with a personal or professional interest in hepatitis C to write to their local MP, asking them to raise the issue of access to hepatitis C treatment in Parliament. You can find out more, and download a template letter here: <http://www.hepctrust.org.uk/write-your-mp> or please email grace.everest@hepctrust.org.uk for more details.

Liver Disease Delivery Plan for Wales published



The Welsh Government and NHS Wales have published, '**Together for Health – Liver Disease Delivery Plan**', to set out their vision for liver disease services over the next five years.

The plan aims to halt the rise in morbidity and mortality related to liver disease by 2020 and takes forward the Blood-Borne Viral Hepatitis Action Plan for Wales (2010-15) in all relevant settings to 'continue the effort to eradicate viral hepatitis'.

PHE publishes findings of opt-out testing in pathfinder prisons

to publicise an event please email details to hcvaction@hepctrust.org.uk.



The exceptionally high prevalence of hepatitis C amongst prisoners has driven a joint developmental priority in the National Partnership Agreement between PHE, NHS England and National Offender Management Service to introduce opt-out BBV testing to all prisoners across the adult prison estate by 2016-17.

Eleven 'pathfinder' prisons have started to implement the opt-out BBV testing policy and the lessons learned from their experiences over the last 6 months have been published in a [preliminary evaluation report](#). This will help to identify key factors for successful implementation of the programme across the all prisons.

The report shows a near doubling of BBV testing in the pathfinder sites following the introduction of the opt-out testing policy. It also contains a number of recommendations, including that local commissioning specifications should aim to include BBV opt-out testing and associated referral and care pathways for patients testing positive for infection by 2016-17. Read the full report and recommendations [here](#).

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

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