

May 2016

*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...

\* There are still a final few remaining places available for the [HCV Action](#) and [Public Health England](#) hepatitis C good practice roadshow in Newcastle on 17<sup>th</sup> May. To secure your free place please register [here](#).

\* An article was published last month in the [Journal of Viral Hepatitis](#) showing the potential impact that new hepatitis C treatments can have for preventing liver disease and hepatitis C transmission in England. The article, which can be viewed [here](#), found that focusing treatment solely on people with cirrhosis is not a tenable long-term strategy if reductions in liver disease and cancer are to be achieved.

\* Research has found that people with hepatitis C in the UK are less likely to be diagnosed than their counterparts across the world, increasing the chances of liver disease and liver cancer. More on this can be read [here](#).

\* [The Hepatitis C Coalition](#) has published its first quarterly newsletter, providing updates on the group's work as well as hepatitis C more broadly. The newsletter can be read [here](#).

\* Interested in how hepatitis C is being addressed across the world? [HCV HUB](#), which can be accessed [here](#), is a database gathering together hepatitis C case studies, action plans, and articles from around the globe. Registration is

## World Health Organization releases updated hepatitis C guidelines

The World Health Organization (WHO) last month published updated guidelines for the screening, care and treatment of people with hepatitis C. WHO issued its first ever recommendations for hepatitis C in 2014; since then, several new treatments have become available which promise to cure most people living with hepatitis C.

The updated guidelines, which can be read [here](#), reflect the rapid progress

that has been made in the development and availability of these treatments, and are intended to facilitate their scale-up across the world.

As well as recommending the use of new regimens over interferon and ribavirin-based regimens, the guidelines also contain a number of recommendations focused on screening and care.



## New HCV Action good practice case studies published

Last month, HCV Action published two new good practice case studies. The first of these case studies looks at the hepatitis C self-management programme delivered by [Waverley Care](#), a charity providing care and support to people living with hepatitis C and HIV across Scotland.

The programme, which won 'Best Patient Support Programme' at the [2015 Hepatitis C Quality in Care Awards](#), involves the delivery of workshops to people with hepatitis C. These workshops focus on improving the emotional and mental health of participants, as well as providing participants with a better knowledge of their condition; allowing them to make more informed choices about their lifestyle and care. The case study, which provides an overview of how the programme works and what it has achieved, can be read [here](#).

The second case study provides an overview of practical support services offered to people with hepatitis C by [Positive Help](#), a charity based in Lothian. These

A screenshot of a document titled "Positive Help: Practical Support Services in Edinburgh". The document is from HCVAction and is dated April 2016. It lists key points: patients undergoing treatment for hepatitis C are offered practical support to help them adhere to the treatment regime; the support includes transport to and from hospital and also domestic support at home; several of the volunteers providing the support services have previously undergone treatment and so are able to advise on the impact of treatment and offer emotional support; 70% of service users reported increased attendance at appointments as a result of the transport service, and 70% of clients receiving the home support services reported feeling less stressed and anxious as a result of the help they were receiving; the project was a finalist in the 'Best Patient Support' category at the 2015 Quality in Care Hepatitis C awards. An overview section follows, stating that Positive Help provides practical volunteer-led practical support to adults and children who are affected by HIV and hepatitis C in Edinburgh and the wider Lothian region. Two initiatives were launched by Positive Help in 2012 to provide transport for those undergoing hepatitis C treatment (to allow them easier access to appointments), as well as providing the domestic support needed to sustain treatment and maintain independent living. These initiatives have resulted in improved attendance at appointments and increased emotional and mental wellbeing among service users. A small photo shows two people standing together. At the bottom, it says "For more details or to share your good practice example see www.hcvaction.org.uk" and "Page 1".

required, although the database is free to access.

\* [London Friend](#) are delivering a 'Working with Chemsex' training session in London on 24<sup>th</sup> May. The training will aim to improve knowledge of Chemsex and associated harms, which include hepatitis C and HIV. Further information, including how to book your place, can be viewed [here](#).

\* [NHS Forth Valley](#) last month urged people from the 'baby boomer' generation to come forward for hepatitis C testing. 1000 people in the area are thought to have hepatitis C but remain undiagnosed, with the highest proportion being between 50 – 60 years old. More on this 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](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).

volunteer-led services include transport to and from hospital for appointments related to hepatitis C treatment and care, as well as a domestic support service. The case study can be read [here](#).

## World Hepatitis Alliance unveils new World Hepatitis Day website and materials

The World Hepatitis Alliance (WHA), the international patient organisation which campaigns on behalf of people across the world with viral hepatitis, has launched its [World Hepatitis Day](#) website for 2016.

World Hepatitis Day, commemorated on the 28<sup>th</sup> of July every year, offers the opportunity to raise awareness of hepatitis C and to encourage prevention, diagnosis and treatment. This year, the theme of World Hepatitis Day is elimination, and the World Hepatitis Day website, which can be accessed [here](#), contains a range of resources and materials designed to help organisations and services make their World Hepatitis Day activities as impactful as possible.



As part of World Hepatitis Day, a new global elimination movement co-ordinated by the WHA, called 'NOhep', will be launched to help people from across the world come together and demand that governments commit to eliminating viral hepatitis by 2030. You can sign up to the movement [here](#).

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Visit [www.hcvaction.org.uk](http://www.hcvaction.org.uk) and follow us on twitter [@HCVAction](#)



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](mailto:hcvaction@hepctrust.org.uk).