

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...

* A new casebook highlighting examples of good practice related to hepatitis C in the South Asian community has been published by [Bristol-Myers Squibb](#). The casebook, which is endorsed by the [British Liver Trust](#) and [The Hepatitis C Trust](#), outlines the challenges of addressing hepatitis C in this community. It also details specific examples from across the country where good practice has been displayed in meeting these challenges. The casebook can be read [here](#).

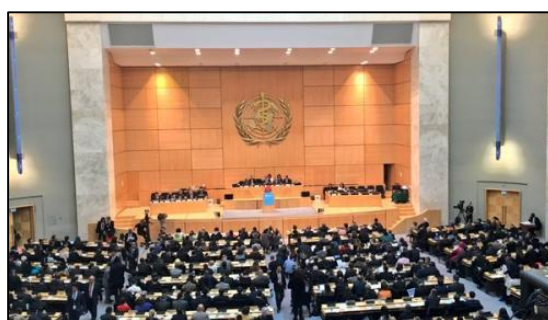
* [Hepatitis Scotland](#) are offering free BBV training in Glasgow on 16th June, aimed at frontline workers who work with people that may be at risk from BBVs (including those who work in substance use services, criminal justice, social work, homelessness services, sexual health services, and other sectors). The training will seek to enable attendees to engage more confidently on issues related to BBVs, and in particular hepatitis C. For further information see [here](#).

* New modelling from a team involving researchers from [Public Health England](#) and the [University of Bristol](#) has found that a scaling-up of hepatitis C treatment and behaviour modification is required in order to have a substantial impact on hepatitis C transmission among men who have sex with men. For more on the findings, see [here](#).

* A US study has found that the price of curing hepatitis C in the

UK joins global partners in committing to elimination of viral hepatitis

On 28th May at the [World Health Assembly](#) in Geneva, 194 member states, including the UK, agreed to adopt the Global Health Sector Strategy on Viral Hepatitis – the world’s first ever global hepatitis strategy – in what could prove to be a turning point in the global fight against viral hepatitis.



The strategy, which contains a number of goals and targets aimed at driving up the numbers of people tested and treated, also includes an over-arching goal of eliminating viral hepatitis as a public health threat by 2030. If these targets are met, the [World Health Organisation \(WHO\)](#) estimates that the strategy will lead to a 65% reduction in the number of deaths caused by viral hepatitis by 2030, meaning 7.1 million lives saved.

Welcoming the strategy’s adoption, Raquel Peck (CEO of the [World Hepatitis Alliance](#)), said:

“The adoption of the WHO Viral Hepatitis Strategy signals the first step in eliminating viral hepatitis, an illness which affects 400 million worldwide. We congratulate governments for showing great ambition. If governments remain committed, we will witness one of the greatest global health threats eliminated in our lifetime.”

A draft version of the strategy can be read [here](#) (with the final version to be published publicly shortly).

The Hepatitis C Trust considers legal challenge against NHS England’s rationing of treatment



The Hepatitis C Trust has announced that it is considering seeking a judicial review of [NHS England’s](#) decision to cap the numbers of people who are able to access new hepatitis C treatments in 2016/17.

The announcement comes after [NHS England’s](#) decision to permit access to new, treatments to only 10,011 people in 2016/17, and to impose a financial penalty on any NHS trust that exceeds their given treatment

long term is significantly cheaper than the ongoing expense of using older, interferon-based treatment or delaying treatment altogether. More details about the study 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.

quota. With this decision coming after the [National Institute for Health and Care Excellence \(NICE\)](#) had approved these treatments as being cost-effective, The Hepatitis C Trust is now considering legal action on behalf of people with hepatitis C in England.

In announcing [The Hepatitis C Trust's](#) decision, Charles Gore (Chief Executive of [The Hepatitis C Trust](#)), said:

"It is truly ironic that NHS England should choose to start rationing drugs that are so effective they cure almost everyone who is treated. It feels like people with hepatitis C are being picked on, and we are having to look to the courts to protect them."

For more on this story, see [here](#).

HCV Action stages 'action week' in North East of England

[HCV Action](#) staged the first hepatitis C 'action week' of 2016 a few weeks ago in the North East of England, with a series of events being held with the aim of raising awareness of hepatitis C and encouraging increased action to be taken locally to tackle the virus.

The centrepiece of the week was the [HCV Action](#) and [Public Health England](#) good practice roadshow, staged in Newcastle on 17th May, which was attended by over 100 people from across the region, including consultants, nurses, drug service professionals, councillors, commissioners and others. A series of talks



and workshops were delivered which both highlighted examples of good practice and provided a forum for the discussion of key local issues and concerns related to hepatitis C services and strategy in the area. A summary report of the day will be published


soon.

Dr Stuart McPherson, North East and Cumbria ODN Clinical Lead, said of the roadshow:

"This roadshow will lead to significant benefits right across our network. The talks, workshops and discussions focused everyone's minds on the fact that hepatitis C is a hugely important issue to address. It really couldn't have come at a better time."

Other events during the week included a patient activism training session; awareness and testing events at an Asian women's community centre and [Newcastle Central Mosque](#); a testing session at [CGL Gateshead Evolve](#), and a series of meetings with key local commissioners.

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

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