

May 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...

* In early May [HCV Action](#) staged a #HCVchat on Twitter, hosted by [HCV Action](#) Ambassador Dr Stuart Flanagan. Dr Flanagan answered questions and facilitated discussion, with a range of individuals and organisations taking part. The full discussion is available to read [here](#). [HCV Action](#) is planning more #HCVchats in future so do look out for details on the [HCV Action Twitter page](#) or email hcvaction@hepctrust.org.uk if you would like to be notified of future hepatitis C Twitter discussions.

* Professor Graham Foster, National Clinical Chair for the Hepatitis C Operational Delivery Networks (ODNs), has written an article for [SMMGP](#), setting out the current landscape for treating hepatitis C and the role for primary care in tackling the virus. The article can be read [here](#).

* A series of hepatitis C 'scare stories' myth-buster posters produced by [Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust](#) are now available in the [HCV Action](#) resource library. The posters address misconceptions around treatment side-effects, liver damage, transmission risks, and more besides. The posters can be accessed [here](#).

* The latest issue of [Drink and Drugs News](#) magazine features an article by Dee Cunniffe of the [London Joint Working Group on](#)

HCV Action & PHE hold good practice roadshow in Cambridge



HCV Action and Public Health England held the first hepatitis C good practice roadshow of 2017 in Cambridge earlier this month, with attendees including clinicians, nurses, drug service professionals, commissioners and others from across the East of England.

Speakers included Dr Jorg Hoffmann (Deputy Director Health Protection, East of England, [Public Health England](#)); Dr Mark Reacher (Regional Epidemiologist, East of England, [Public Health England](#)); Dr Will Gelson (Operational Delivery Network Clinical Lead, Eastern Hepatitis Network); and Dr Geraldine Linehan (Regional Director of Specialised Commissioning, [NHS England](#)).

The event also featured presentations showcasing good practice from the region, and afternoon workshops on the work of the ODN, hepatitis C in drug services and hepatitis C in the South Asian community. All of the presentation slides from the roadshow can be accessed in the [HCV Action](#) resource library [here](#).

A summary report of the roadshow will be distributed to attendees and added to the [HCV Action](#) resource library following the general election (due to purdah rules, the report cannot be sent out before the election due to the involvement of [Public Health England](#)). The summary report will provide an overview of the workshop discussions and attendees' pledges for taking further action to tackle hepatitis C.

The roadshow was part of a broader HCV Action 'hepatitis C action week' in the region. Action week events included hepatitis C testing in the Abu Bakr Masjid Mosque in Cambridge and a visit to Addenbrooke's Hospital by Daniel Zeichner (MP for Cambridge until the election announcement, now seeking re-election), in which he met with hepatitis C patients and spoke to clinicians.

HCV Action holds ODN workshop in Newcastle

[HCV Action](#) held an Operational Delivery Network (ODN) workshop in Newcastle in May, featuring presentations and group work to identify local challenges and seek to find solutions.

The workshop followed the regular meeting of the North East and North Cumbria ODN and began with Dr Stuart McPherson, the ODN Clinical Lead, and

[Substance Use and Hepatitis C](#), highlighting the importance of taking action on hepatitis C, with particular focus on injecting drug users in London. The article can be read on p.8-9 [here](#).

* New research indicates that most people on opiate substitution therapy (OST) are able to be successfully treated with the new hepatitis C treatments. The study also found that only a small number of patients on OST were reinfected during three years of follow-up. Those leading the study, reporting at the 25th [International Harm Reduction Conference](#) in Montreal, said that the results support advocacy efforts to expand hepatitis C treatment for people who inject drugs (PWIDs). A write-up of the research is available [here](#).

* US website [The Body](#) has published a guide to hepatitis C treatment for the co-infected population. The resource sets out key points for those living with hepatitis C and HIV and 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.



Dr Sarah Morey, ODN Manager, presenting on the challenges and opportunities for tackling hepatitis C in the region. This was followed by a presentation by Stuart Smith, Head of Drug Services at [The Hepatitis C Trust](#), on the benefits of using a peer-to-peer support model for hepatitis C patients.

The workshop ended with group discussion and feedback on the challenges facing screening, testing and treatment for hepatitis C across all providers, including ensuring sufficient numbers of people are being diagnosed and referred into specialist services. Attendees worked together to develop solutions for overcoming these challenges.

A summary report of the event will be published soon and will provide further details on the day's discussions.

New hepatitis C treatment made available in UK via Early Access to Medicines Scheme



A new treatment for chronic hepatitis C has been made available via the UK's Early Access to Medicines Scheme (EAMS), following the scientific opinion of the [Medicines and](#)

[Healthcare products Regulatory Agency \(MHRA\)](#). The treatment, glecaprevir/pibrentasvir (G/P), is a once-daily regimen, taken without ribavirin.

The treatment is currently being assessed by the [European Medicines Agency](#) as a treatment for all genotypes after showing high cure rates in clinical trials, but will be made available to certain patients in the UK before the final decision from the European regulators.

The treatment will be made available for patients with compensated cirrhosis and at least one of the following: genotype 1, 4, 5 or 6 infection and prior treatment with an NS5A inhibitor; genotype 2, 3, 5 or 6 infection and chronic kidney disease stage 4 or 5; or genotype 3 infection previously treated with peg-interferon, ribavirin and/or sofosbuvir. Further details can be found [here](#).

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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.