

November 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...

* **HCV Action** staged our fourth hepatitis C good practice roadshow in Brighton on 25th November with **Public Health England (PHE)**, following previous events this year in **Liverpool**, **London** and Birmingham. The roadshow featured a range of talks and workshops on hepatitis C in the Brighton and wider Sussex area; many of which focused on how to address hepatitis C alongside HIV and other BBVs. A full summary report of the day will soon be available on the **HCV Action** website.

* **PHE** have released ***Hepatitis C in London: 2015 report***, which focuses on the epidemiology of hepatitis C in the capital. The report, which can be read [here](#), contains a number of recommendations for GPs; local authorities; commissioners; drug services and others on how the virus can be better managed.

* **The Lancet** recently featured an article from Dr Chloe Orkin and Dr Emma Wallis entitled 'Should HIV testing week be blood-borne virus testing week?' The article can be read [here](#) (subscription required).

* **PHE** have issued a briefing highlighting issues related to men who have sex with men who are involved in chemsex. It contains background information, recent data, prompts for local areas and services, and is essential reading for commissioners and providers of drug and alcohol services. It can be read [here](#).

HCV Action publish new good practice case studies

In November, **HCV Action** published three new case studies, each highlighting hepatitis C services or projects that are both innovative and highly successful in terms of improving outcomes for patients.

The first of these case studies looks at the Going Viral project, which involved conducting '3 in 1' hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV tests on all blood tests in 9 A&E departments for one week in October 2014. The project led to 2,118 people being tested, with 3.4% resulting in positive tests. The case study can be read [here](#).

The second case study, which can be read [here](#), looks at the BBV Champions project in Berkshire. The project seeks to raise hepatitis C awareness and testing levels among at-risk groups, via the training of key workers and volunteers who work with those groups.

The final case study, which can be read [here](#), provides an overview of a service improvement initiative that has taken place in Inverclyde and Renfrewshire, which has sought to develop a patient-centred, individualised hepatitis C service for patients. Through extensive patient engagement and feedback, amendments have been made to the services which have resulted in more people being referred to the service, as well as more people staying engaged in treatment and ultimately completing it.

NICE publishes final guidance for three new hepatitis C treatments

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) have this month published final guidance recommending the use of **Harvoni**, **Daklinza** and **Viekirax (with or without Exviera)** for the treatment of people with hepatitis C.

The guidance will result in significantly wider access to the new, non-interferon, direct acting anti-viral treatments, which have shorter treatment durations and much less severe side-effects for patients when compared to interferon-based



* The [All-Party Parliamentary Hepatology Group](#) have released a briefing that provides an update on the progress made in tackling liver disease since the release, in March 2014, of the group's [Liver Disease: Today's Complacency, Tomorrow's Catastrophe](#) report. The briefing can be read [here](#).

* PHE have published [Shooting Up: Infections among people who inject drugs in the UK 2014 – An update, November 2014](#). It describes trends in the extent of infections and associated risks among people who inject drugs. It finds that 2 in 5 of those who inject drugs in the UK have hepatitis C.

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

treatments. It should ensure that people with genotypes 1 and 4 hepatitis C, as well as some people with genotype 3, will be able to access the new treatments.

Charles Gore, Chief Executive of The Hepatitis C Trust and member of the HCV Action Steering Group said:

"We welcome NICE's final recommendations for access to these new hepatitis C therapies, which will mean many more patients are able to access the best treatment. Now we have the drugs, we need to make sure patients can get them quickly, and we will be working with NHS England the new Operational Delivery Networks to make that happen. We will also continue to fight for those patients still not able to access non-interferon therapies."



Parliamentary event calls for launch of Hepatitis C Improvement Framework

In partnership with the Hepatitis C Coalition and the All-Party Parliamentary Hepatology Group (APPHG), The Hepatitis C Trust staged a parliamentary

reception on 30th November on hepatitis C and associated diseases.



The event, which was hosted by Liz McInnes MP and Gary Streeter MP, sought to raise awareness of the links between hepatitis C and a range of other conditions (such as HIV, tuberculosis, thalassemia, alcohol-related liver disease, and haemophilia) and the need for a

joined-up approach to tackling these conditions. It also sought to build support for implementing a national improvement framework for hepatitis C, in order to improve testing, diagnosis and treatment rates, as well as facilitate more joined-up services.

Attendees, who included parliamentarians, patients, clinicians and policy-makers, heard talks from [Baroness Randerson](#), [Liz McInnes MP](#), [Professor Graham Foster](#) (Consultant Hepatologist, [Barts Health NHS Trust](#)), and [Dr Onn Min Kon](#) (Consultant Respiratory Physician, [Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust](#)).

the hepatitis C coalition
test. treat. cure

THE HEPATITIS C TRUST

appg
on Hepatology

I call for action to:

- Eliminate hepatitis C as a major public health concern
- Address public health inequalities
- Ensure patient access to curative medicines for hepatitis C
- Reduce avoidable premature mortality from liver disease
- Improve outcomes for people with health conditions associated with hepatitis C, including HIV, TB, thalassemia, sickle cell disease, haemophilia and alcohol-related liver disease

...release an improvement framework for hepatitis C

Join the campaign for a national improvement framework for hepatitis C:

- On Twitter using the hashtag #eliminatehepC and retweeting the pledge card [here](#).
- On Facebook by sharing the pledge card [here](#).

*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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