

## One Recovery Bucks BBV pathway

*Community drug and alcohol service increases number of people getting treated for hepatitis C by five times*

### Key points

- One Recovery Bucks worked with Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust to develop a treatment pathway which increased the proportion of people who tested positive going on to complete treatment for hepatitis C from 18% to 90%.
- The improved pathway significantly reduced both the number of tests patients had to complete and the number of appointments they were required to attend.
- The service established regular clinics so that patients could meet with the Hepatologist in-house.

### Overview

Community drug and alcohol service One Recovery Bucks developed a treatment pathway in partnership with the local NHS Trust to reduce the number of tests and meetings with healthcare staff patients were required to participate in before commencing hepatitis C treatment. The service has halved the number of appointments patients have to attend before starting treatment and patients are able to see the Hepatologist in a clinic run within the service.



One Recovery Bucks hopes that by spring 2020 they will have achieved micro-elimination within the community service.

### Why and how the service was established

Before One Recovery Bucks implemented the BBV pathway in 2016, they only tested for hepatitis C antibodies: if a patient was antibody-positive they would be signposted on to

their GP for further confirmatory antibody blood tests and then a follow-up test if positive to check whether or not they had an active infection (PCR test). If PCR-positive, the patient would then have to attend yet another appointment before being referred for treatment. Such a convoluted and lengthy pathway meant that less than a fifth (18%) of those testing positive for hepatitis C in the service actually received treatment.

By working with the local NHS Trust, One Recovery Bucks was able to develop a much simpler 'in-house' service.

### How the service works

Following an initial discussion with the patient about BBVs and next steps if the result is positive, the patient is tested with the Alere Dry Blood Test. This is sent off for analysis on the same day and tests for both antibodies and RNA. If the test comes back positive, the service completes further pre-treatment blood tests under the GP surgery name to facilitate a referral to the Consultant Hepatologist. The referral includes the most recent medical summary and is also CC'd to the GP.



The patient then attends a 45-minute appointment at the next 'In Reach Viral Hep C Clinic', held at One Recovery Bucks. To encourage attendance, appointments are scheduled to coincide with collection of opiate substitute prescriptions and the patient is sent a letter detailing what to expect from the appointment, which their key worker is also sent in order to incorporate into their care plan. They are also sent three text message reminders and are contacted if they do not attend the clinic.

Once authorised to commence DAA treatment, patients collect their medication from the hospital pharmacy on a monthly basis until treatment is completed. They are given copies of all the blood test request forms and a schedule of appointments which they need need to attend to complete follow-up blood tests (one for end of treatment and another for SVR). These are also forwarded to the BBV Lead Nurse and CC'd to the GP. Information about the patient's progress to SVR is also uploaded onto the service's database and incorporated into their recovery plan.

### Outcomes

Of those who tested positive for hepatitis C, the proportion accessing treatment has increased from 18% to over 90%.

## **Future plans**

One Recovery Bucks hopes that by spring 2020 they will have achieved micro-elimination within the community service. The service intends to continue to test and treat those who have been put at risk of hepatitis C infection.

## **For additional details, please contact:**

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One Recovery Bucks's BBV pathway can be found in the HCV Action resource library [here](#).