

February 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...

\* [Hepatitis Scotland](#) is holding one-day Blood Borne Virus (BBV) training sessions on 20<sup>th</sup> March and 31<sup>st</sup> March at the Scottish Drugs Forum in Glasgow. The training sessions are free to attend and aim to enable workers to engage more competently and confidently with service users and professionals on a range of issues related to BBVs, with particular emphasis on risks associated with drug use. The event will focus mainly on hepatitis C, although relevant issues relating to hepatitis B and HIV will also be explored. Places must be reserved by 13<sup>th</sup> March. Further information and booking is available [here](#).

\* Sarah Keidel, HCV Medical Manager for [AbbVie UK](#) has blogged for the [New Local Government Network](#) about bridging gaps in hepatitis C awareness and diagnosis. The blog draws on the results of a three-year [Addaction](#) and [Hepatitis C Trust](#) pilot with services in the South West, which highlighted the importance of peer-to-peer education and addiction services workforce development. The blog can be read [here](#).

\* Researchers from the Dutch pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) demonstration study, AmPrEP, have found an unexpectedly high rate of hepatitis C infection in participants. Maria Prins, one of the researchers involved in the study said the data suggests that hepatitis C screening and regular testing should become the

## ODN event summary report published by HCV Action



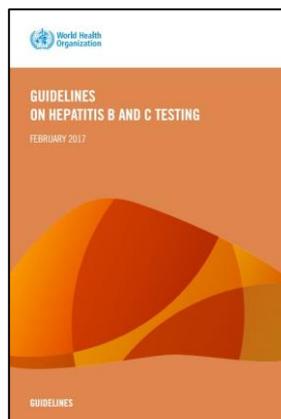
A summary report of the Midlands & East ODN Event, hosted by HCV Action and NHS England on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February, is now available in the HCV Action Resource Library, along with all of the presentation slides from the event.

The event, which took place at the De Vere East Midlands Conference Centre in Nottingham, brought together professionals from across the Midlands and East whose work impacts on the hepatitis C ODNs in the region.

The day began with updates from local ODNs, with common themes being the positive impact of collaboration through the ODN model, and challenges including meeting the run rates and treating genotype 3 patients. This was followed by a national update by Prof Graham Foster, the National Clinical Chair for the Hepatitis C Operational Delivery Networks (pictured). Afternoon sessions included clinical debates and updates on community hepatitis C services.

The report is available [here](#) and the presentation slides are available [here](#).

## WHO releases guidelines on hepatitis B and C testing



The **World Health Organisation** (WHO) has released its first ever guidance on testing for hepatitis B and C.

The guidelines outline the public health approach to strengthening and expanding current testing practices for hepatitis B and C, and are intended for use across age groups and populations.

The guidelines contain recommendations covering:

- Who to test for chronic hepatitis B and C infection (testing approaches)
- How to test serologically for chronic hepatitis B and C infection (testing strategies)
- How to confirm viraemic hepatitis B and C infection to guide treatment decisions

norm among gay men seeking and taking PrEP. [The World Hepatitis Alliance's](#) news story on the research can be read [here](#).

\* The Scottish Chief Medical Officer's annual report revealed a 36% increase in the number of people with hepatitis C initiated onto treatment between 2014/15 and 2015/16, rising from 1,271 people to 1,724. The full report is available [here](#), with the update on hepatitis C featured on page 45.

\* Prof John Dillon of [NHS Tayside](#) has appeared in a video providing an overview of the hepatitis C virus, including disease progression and drug regimens. The video is available to view [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).*

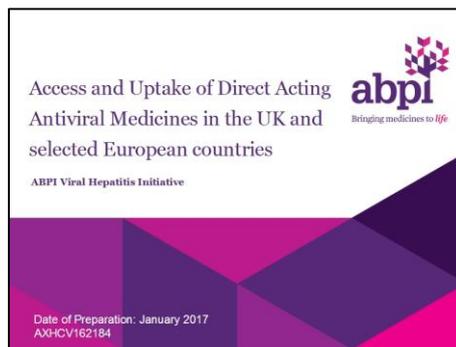
We want to keep HCV Action's membership updated on news and events from across the country.

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).

- How to assess response to antiviral treatment for chronic hepatitis B and C infection
- Use of dried blood spot (DBS) specimens for serology testing and virological testing for chronic hepatitis B and C infection
- Interventions to promote uptake of testing and linkage to care.

The resource also features guidance to support implementation of the recommendations at country level and on different service delivery models for testing. You can access the guidelines [here](#).

## New report compares DAA uptake in UK and other European countries



A new report, produced by IMS Health and commissioned by the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI), compares the uptake of direct acting antiviral (DAA) treatments in the UK and other European countries, revealing significant variances in the ability of patients to access the treatments.

The report, entitled *Access and Uptake of Direct Acting Antiviral Medicines in the UK and selected European countries*, confirms that people living with hepatitis C in the UK are less able or likely to access treatment than people living in Portugal, Belgium, Germany, France and Spain.

The number of patients receiving treatment in the last five years exceeds a quarter of those estimated to have the virus in Belgium, Portugal and Germany, compared with 9% in the UK. The report can be read in full [here](#).

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The Hepatitis C Trust provides secretariat support to HCV Action*

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