

# HCVAction

Bringing you the latest hepatitis C news and events

February 2022

## HCV Action publishes 'hepatitis C services in Wales' webinar summary report



The first HCV Action webinar of 2022 focused on on hepatitis C services in Wales, bringing together professionals including Dr Brendan Healy ([University Hospital of Wales](#)); Delyth Tomkinson, Dr Siske Struik & Emily Blake ([Cardiff and Vale University Health Board](#)); Danny Morris ([The Hepatitis C Trust](#)); and Michael Curties ([the Welsh Government](#)).

We have published a [summary report](#) of the event, featuring key takeaways from each presentation and speaker, which looks into the current state of play and where we need to go from here to progress towards the elimination target.

While Wales has a dedicated clinical team which has achieved substantial progress in tackling hepatitis C given the resources at its disposal, it has not benefited from the same level of financial backing that has been seen in England following the NHS England elimination deal. As with many other health

areas, the pandemic has had a big impact on hepatitis C services in Wales and this has further set back progress towards elimination.

You also can watch a [recording of the webinar here](#) or read our [Twitter summary](#).

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## LJWG Conference 2022: 3 years to go to elimination



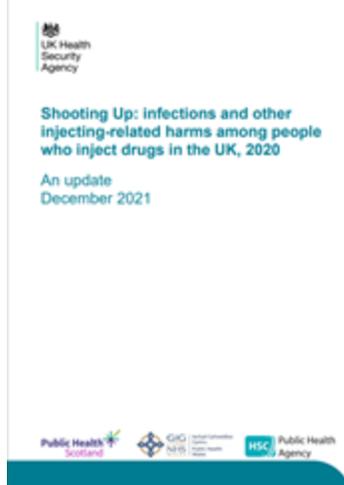
The [London Joint Working Group on Substance Use and Hepatitis C](#) will be holding its 2022 conference on the 16<sup>th</sup> June at [The Institution of Mechanical Engineers](#). The conference will bring together professionals working in hepatitis C care in London, and will hear from experts about the barriers and solutions to London becoming the first global city to eliminate hepatitis C.

The event is free to attend for all healthcare workers, charity employees, peer support staff and patient advocates and, alongside the in-person event, will also be live-streamed to allow for remote attendees to engage virtually.

The conference will also feature a poster exhibition, with the opportunity for attendees to display a poster to showcase recent research findings or evidence.

For more information, and how to register interest, see the [Eventbrite](#).

## Latest Shooting Up: infections among people who inject drugs in the UK report released



The [UK Health Security Agency](#) has published its most recent update to the ‘Shooting Up’ report. The report describes the extent of infections and injecting-related harms among people who inject drugs (PWID), who experience substantially worse health outcomes than the general population.

The pandemic has had a significant impact on access to services for PWID, including access to blood borne virus (BBV) testing and equipment for the safe use and/or injecting of drugs. Among other key findings, the report observes that risk behaviours among PWID have increased, with a third of PWID in 2020 reporting an inadequate provision of needles and syringes. And alongside risk behaviour, reports of both fatal and non-fatal overdose have increased in the UK, with overdose most common among people using and/or injecting opiates.

Although hepatitis C continues to be the most common infection among PWID in the UK, with evidence showing no reductions in new infections, there has nonetheless been a significant decline in chronic hepatitis C prevalence.

The report recommends that diagnostic services and care and treatment pathways for those with hepatitis C continue and are optimised to meet the needs of PWID, ensuring that no-one is left behind.

Read the update [here](#).

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## News and reports

\* A [study](#) looking at peer support for people who experience homelessness with problem substance use found that participants reported improvements to service engagement, and feeling more equipped to access services independently.

\* Researchers in the US have used artificial intelligence to train algorithms to

identify 41 risk factors impacting hepatitis C treatment success, which could help clinicians to mitigate the risk of treatment failure. Read more [here](#).

\* A [study](#) in [The Lancet](#) analysed HCV prevalence in 110 countries and found that we are not currently on track to achieve global elimination targets by 2030. As countries recover from COVID-19, these findings can help refocus HCV elimination efforts.

\* The Hepatology Department at University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust is [marking an important milestone](#) in the elimination of hepatitis C. Since the first patients were treated at Derriford Hospital in March 2001, 1,000 patients have now been treated.

\* The [Infected Blood Inquiry](#) has put out a plea urging people affected by sickle cell disease and thalassaemia to come forward and [give statements of their experience](#).

\* Bereaved partners of those affected by infected blood in the 1970s and 1980s are being urged to come forward for more financial support from the [England Infected Blood Support Scheme](#) (EIBSS), find out more [here](#).

\* [The Infected Blood Inquiry](#) has [published its timetable](#) for upcoming February hearings, and the June deadline for initial written submissions about recommendations.

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## Share good practice

If you would like your service to be featured as a good practice case study on the HCV Action website, have any news to share with colleagues, or would be interested in being an [HCV Action Ambassador](#), please send an email to [hcvaction@hepctrust.org.uk](mailto:hcvaction@hepctrust.org.uk).



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The Hepatitis C Trust provides secretariat support to HCV Action.*

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