

January 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...

* New to the [HCV Action](#) resource library is the annual report from the Northern Ireland Hepatitis B and C Managed Clinical Network. The report, which can be viewed [here](#), provides an overview of the work of the Network, as well as containing a broader look at hepatitis C in Northern Ireland.

* The [WHO Executive Board](#) have recommended the draft Global Health Sector Strategy on Viral Hepatitis, which sets as its goal the elimination of hepatitis B and C as a major public health threat by 2030. The 194 [UN](#) member states will now consider the recommended draft at the [World Health Assembly](#) in May and are likely to adopt it along with its ambitious targets. The strategy can be viewed [here](#).

* [The World Hepatitis Alliance](#) have launched a Patient Advocacy Creation Tool, aimed at helping doctors and other healthcare workers become involved in the development of patient groups for viral hepatitis. The tool can be accessed for free [here](#).

* [Public Health Wales](#) have published *Harm Reduction Database Wales: Needle and syringe provision 2014-15*. The annual report, which provides national data on the provision of needle and syringe programmes in the country, contains a recommendation for commissioners and service providers to ensure BBV testing and referral alongside harm reduction information and NSP provision. It can be read [here](#).

New HCV Action good practice case studies published

HCV Action have published two new case studies, both of which highlight innovative ways of ensuring that more people are diagnosed, tested and treated for hepatitis C. The first of the case studies, which can be read [here](#), looks at the work of the Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, which has developed a bespoke outreach and fibroscan service for the assessment of hepatitis C, as well as liver disease more broadly.

The service, which has delivered fibroscan sessions in a range of outreach settings including homeless hostels and drug services, has provided a fibroscan to 110 people since its establishment, with 21% of those people showing evidence of liver damage.

The second case study, which can be read [here](#), provides an overview of a peer to peer hepatitis C mentoring project that was established in Hampshire in 2012. Through delivering awareness sessions (to patients and health professionals) as well as peer support, the project has managed to significantly increase patient engagement in the area. The project also delivered a series of testing events in 2014, which engaged over 600 at-risk individuals.

Department of Health issues consultation on infected blood: reform of financial and other support

On 21st January, the [Department of Health](#) published its consultation on proposed reforms to the support system provided to those infected with hepatitis C or HIV through contaminated blood on the NHS.

The proposed reforms, which primarily concern the financial support on offer to victims and their families, also include a proposal to establish a scheme to enhance access to hepatitis C treatment for those infected with hepatitis C as a result of treatment with NHS blood products, with a specific focus on “those who fall just outside of the current NHS roll out plans.” The proposal goes on to say that “depending on the level of interest expressed in response to this consultation, we will work to include as many people as is possible (in the proposed new scheme.”



* The European ChemSex Forum, a three day event which will include a range of talks, workshops and training sessions on issues around ChemSex (including hepatitis C transmission), will be held in London on 6th – 8th April. Further information on the event, which is free to attend, can be found [here](#).

* **The Hepatitis C Trust** are this year establishing patient councils in each **Operational Delivery Network** (ODN) area, in order to ensure that every ODN has a strong patient voice. For further information on the councils, including how you or your patients/clients can become involved, see [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.



Commenting upon the proposal to establish the new treatment scheme, **Jane Ellison MP** (Minister for Public Health) **said**: “More than anything I want, if we can, to give the chance to limit the impact of hepatitis C on this affected community...So my intention is that through the new scheme we can provide an opportunity to enhance access to treatment, especially for those who fall just short of the current criteria for the NHS. I would hope that we could treat more people if finances allow.”

The consultation, which can be accessed [here](#), can be responded to online or via a response form which can be downloaded

[here](#). Consultation responses must be submitted by 15th April. HCV Action encourages health professionals delivering hepatitis C services to respond.

Hepatitis B and C innovation testing contest launched

A hepatitis B and C testing contest has been launched by SESH Global and the **World Health Organization (WHO)**, which is seeking to identify innovative examples of delivering hepatitis B and C testing from across the globe.

The aim of the contest is to identify interventions that have delivered testing to new populations, or which have incorporated new messaging approaches to testing that have led to increases in the numbers of people being tested. If selected, entries will win the opportunity to be highlighted in the 2016 **WHO Hepatitis Testing Guidelines**.

For further information on the contest, including how to enter, see [here](#). Deadline for entries is 1st March.

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