

July 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...

* World Hepatitis Day was held on 28th July, with awareness-raising events taking place all over the UK. A message of support for the day was given by Jane Ellison MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public Health, which can be read [here](#). Nicola Sturgeon MSP, First Minister of Scotland, and the main Scottish opposition leaders also issued statements of support, which can be read [here](#).

* **PHE** have released a briefing containing practical advice for commissioners and services on improving access to, and completion of, hepatitis C treatment. The briefing, which can be accessed [here](#), provides an overview of key local issues that local providers and commissioners of drug and hepatitis C treatment should consider when commissioning and delivering services.

* The presentations from the successful **HCV Action** and **PHE** hepatitis C good practice London roadshow can now be viewed [here](#). A summary report of the day is currently being drafted and will be available on the **HCV Action** website soon.

* Have you been inspired by World Hepatitis Day to improve your knowledge of hepatitis C, or improve the services that you offer? Check out our [resource library](#) for examples of good practice and ideas for change.

NICE issues draft guidance for new HCV drugs

NICE National Institute for Health and Care Excellence

NICE have this week published appraisal consultation documents

for three new hepatitis C therapies; **ledipasvir-sofosbuvir (Harvoni)**, **daclatasvir (Daklinza)**, and **ombitasvir-paritaprevir-ritonavir with or without dasabuvir (Viekirax with or without Exviera)**.

The draft guidance recommends the use of all three drugs for certain groups of people with hepatitis C (a summary of the guidance can be read [here](#)). A consultation period will now take place until 19th August, whereby interested parties can submit their responses to the documents, with a further Appraisal Committee meeting taking place on 3rd September. The Final Appraisal Determination documents (which represent the final NICE guidance) will then be issued within 6 weeks of this meeting.

Professor Carole Longson, Director of the NICE Centre for Health Technology Evaluation, said: "We are very pleased to recommend not only one, but three new treatment options for people with hepatitis C. This is good news, not just for people with chronic hepatitis C, but also because having more effective treatments for the condition could reduce the spread of the virus."

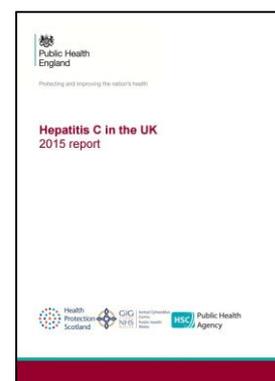
'Hepatitis C in the UK' report published and shows increase in HCV-related deaths

Public Health England (PHE) have released '*Hepatitis C in the UK: 2015 report*', which provides an overview of the current hepatitis C landscape across the UK.

The report confirms that 214,000 people are estimated to have chronic hepatitis C in the UK, and that injecting drug use continues to be the most important risk factor for hepatitis C infection in the UK, with half of all people who inject drugs (PWIDs) in England being infected; 57% of all PWIDs in Scotland being infected, and 23% of all PWIDs in Northern Ireland.

It also finds that hospital admissions from hepatitis C-related end stage liver disease and liver cancer in the UK have nearly trebled in the past decade, while deaths from these indications have more than doubled in the same time period.

The full report can be read [here](#).



Free RCGP & PHE hepatitis C online training course now available

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.



to improve knowledge and awareness of the virus.

PHE and the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) have launched a new online training course, 'Hepatitis C: Enhancing Prevention, Testing and Care', aimed at staff working in drug services and those who work with drug users in wider services, which seeks

As well as providing an understanding of hepatitis C and its prevalence, the course, which can be accessed [here](#), also gives an overview of the liver and its function, as well as the stages and natural history of untreated hepatitis C liver disease. The course, which is free of charge, provides participants with the opportunity to print a 2 hour CPD certificate upon completion.

*HCV Action is co-funded by Abbvie, BMS, Gilead, Janssen and MSD.
The Hepatitis C Trust provides secretariat support to HCV Action*

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