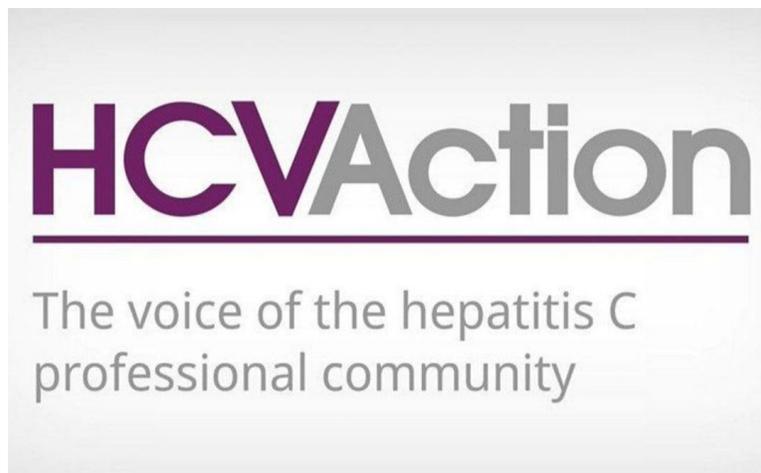


HCVAction

Bringing you the latest hepatitis C news and events

June 2021

HCV Action hosting webinar on measuring progress to hepatitis C elimination



Next Wednesday (7th July), [HCV Action](#) will host a webinar on measuring progress to hepatitis C elimination. The webinar will take place from 1pm-2pm via Zoom.

Each nation in the UK has set rapidly approaching targets for eliminating hepatitis C; many areas and services in the community and prisons have done the same. Being able to measure what such "microelimination" and nationwide elimination looks like will be critical to both celebrating and maintaining this achievement.

The webinar will bring together a panel of speakers from services that have achieved hepatitis C microelimination in their area, as well as hearing from representatives from [Public Health England](#) and [NHS England and NHS Improvement](#). Following the presentations, there will be an opportunity for attendees to participate in a Q&A session to ask questions and share best practice.

Those interested can register to attend the webinar [here](#).

A summary report featuring the 'key takeaways' from last month's [HCV Action](#) webinar on hepatitis C outreach has now been published and is available in the resource library [here](#). A recording of the webinar can also be viewed on the [HCV Action](#) YouTube channel [here](#).

Hepatitis C elimination projects highlighted at International Liver Congress



Hepatitis C elimination projects featured at this year's [International Liver Congress](#), hosted by [EASL](#), the European Association for the Study of the Liver.

The online conference featured a talk from those involved in High Intensity Test and Treat (HITT) interventions in prisons in England, which involve screening entire prison populations in 1-5 days and rapidly initiating treatment. In 2020, nine HITTs in English prisons saw 4,724 prison residents out of a potential 4,858 screened for hepatitis C, with the HITT model shown to be highly effective in working towards microelimination in individual prisons. The accompanying poster is available in the [HCV Action](#) resource library [here](#).

The conference also featured a poster on the rapid scale-up of hepatitis C treatment among people who inject drugs in Tayside, Scotland. The project saw the implementation of hepatitis C care pathways in community settings to complement hospital care. Tayside exceeded its targets for the treatment scale-up programme, with the project effectively reducing the population level burden of hepatitis C among people who inject drugs in the Tayside region. The poster can be viewed [here](#).

Infected blood compensation framework consultation launched, as Inquiry hearings continue



Following the [appointment](#) in May of Sir Robert Francis QC to undertake a study into a framework for compensation to those infected and affected by the infected blood scandal, June saw the launch of a [consultation](#) on the terms of reference for the study.

The consultation invites submissions on the suggested scope of the study by 26th July 2021, which will then inform the final terms of reference Sir Robert will submit to the Government. The suggested scope and instructions for submitting a response to the consultation can be accessed [here](#). The study is separate to the ongoing [Infected Blood Inquiry](#) and will provide the Government with advice on potential options for compensation framework design and solutions should the Inquiry recommend compensation be paid.

In the last two weeks of July, the [Infected Blood Inquiry](#) will take evidence from officials and ministers who served in the Department of Health and Social Security in the 1980s, including former Health Secretary Ken Clarke. Full details can be found [here](#).

News and reports

* [NHS England and NHS Improvement](#) will be hosting a 'kick-off' event on the morning of World Hepatitis Day (Wednesday 28th July). Taking place online from 8am-8.45am, the event will bring together partners involved in the delivery of HCV elimination initiatives to celebrate the work collectively achieved to date to drive elimination of hepatitis C. The event will also highlight activity taking place across the rest of the day for World Hepatitis Day. Find out more and register [here](#).

* [Hanham Secure Health](#) is holding a free conference from 2pm-4.30pm on Wednesday 21st July to celebrate partnership working around hepatitis C and share good practice of prison and community teams striving to eliminate hepatitis C. The event will feature a talk from Mark Gillyon-Powell, Head of Programme – Hepatitis C Elimination at [NHS England and NHS Improvement](#). See further details and register to attend [here](#).

* A month-long campaign has seen a record number of people tested for hepatitis C in the [Forward Leeds](#) drug and alcohol service during May. The campaign, in collaboration with [The Hepatitis C Trust](#), saw 481 people tested for the virus in May, compared with 304 for the whole of 2020. Read more [here](#).

* Two separate hepatitis C outreach projects engaging the homeless community have been shortlisted for the Health Equalities Award at the [NHS Parliamentary Awards](#), which allows MPs to recognise health and care programmes taking place in their constituency. The West Yorkshire Hepatitis C Operational Delivery Network and partners were [nominated](#) by Leeds Central MP Hilary Benn, while [Royal Surrey](#), [One Recovery Bucks](#) and partners were [nominated](#) by Wycombe MP Steve Baker and South West Surrey MP Jeremy Hunt.

* Laboratory reports for hepatitis C in England and Wales have been published by [Public Health England](#) for 2019, January-March 2020 and April-June 2020. In January-March 2020 there was a 15.4% decrease in the number of reports compared to the first quarter of 2019, and a 60.7% decrease in the second quarter compared with the same period in 2019, due to the impact of Covid-19 on health services. Access the reports in the [HCV Action](#) resource library [here](#) (2019), [here](#) (January-March 2020) and [here](#) (April-June 2020).

* [HCV Action](#) is still seeking responses to a survey of those working in hepatitis C care in the UK which aims to understand what is happening on the ground with regards to hepatitis C testing, treatment and follow-up and progress towards elimination. You can complete the survey [here](#).

* A study of hepatitis C treatment based in New York has found that even when patients used drugs and had suboptimal adherence to treatment, they still had hepatitis C cure rates of 98%. Read the study [here](#).

* A study covering four prisons in Australia has found that scaling up treatment in prisons leads to a reduction in new hepatitis C infections - an indication of 'treatment as prevention'. Read more [here](#).

* A study in Vancouver has explored the expectations and lived experiences of people who inject drugs with hepatitis C after treatment and cure. Participants expressed apprehensiveness about how stigma and criminalisation could interfere with harm reduction and reinfection prevention efforts. Read more [here](#).

* [The Hepatitis C Trust](#) is seeking applications for peer support roles based in

Kent (closing date 11th July) and Wales (closing date 25th July). Further details [here](#).

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.



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

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