

November 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...

* An article published in [*Pharmaceutical Journal*](#) makes the case for screening and treatment for HCV in community pharmacies, citing examples of good practice in Dundee and the Isle of Wight. The article lays out challenges and opportunities in making community pharmacies a 'one-stop shop' for HCV care, with a positive test leading to on-site investigations and treatment. Read the article [here](#).

* An interview-based study published in the [*Harm Reduction Journal*](#) analysed the relationships built by peers with hepatitis C-positive people in the homeless and PWID community. It found that a peer model has significant therapeutic benefits and is an effective means of building relationships with key hard-to-reach populations. Read the article [here](#).

* An editorial in [*The Lancet*](#) echoes the call of delegates at the World Hepatitis Summit for strong political will and international action to move towards hepatitis C elimination. Read the article [here](#).

* The [*World Hepatitis Alliance*](#) has launched its new [2018-2020 Strategic Plan](#), with a focus on finding the 'missing millions' of undiagnosed people, alongside a new [video](#) setting out its vision for the future.

* The week of 17-24 November

Last chance to register for HCV Action hepatitis C good practice roadshow in Cardiff



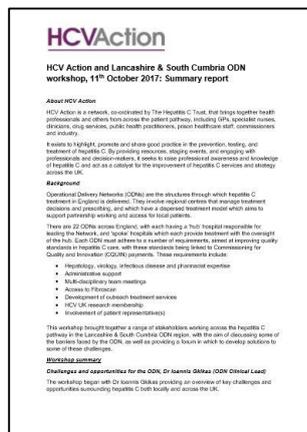
HCV Action and Public Health Wales will host a Hepatitis C Good Practice Roadshow in Cardiff on Friday 8th December 2017. This the third and final roadshow HCV Action has co-hosted this year.

The roadshow will bring together health professionals, drug service workers, public health specialists and others from across Wales for a day of talks and workshops. The day will highlight local good practice and act as a forum for discussion about local challenges and solutions surrounding hepatitis C.

It will feature a range of talks and workshops on topics such as local epidemiology, treatments and possibilities for elimination, and primary care case-finding. The event will also include patient perspectives and good practice case studies from the local area.

The event is free to attend, and a limited number of places are still available – register [here](#).

Summary reports of HCV Action ODN workshops in Bristol and Preston now available



Summary reports are now available for two ODN workshops held by HCV Action in the autumn.

The workshops bring together stakeholders working across the hepatitis C pathway in the ODN region, with the aim of discussing some of the barriers faced by the ODN, and providing a forum in which to develop solutions to some of these challenges.

The reports include summaries of the day's talks and group discussion, as well as suggested next steps to be taken following the event, with recommendations of relevance to hepatitis C

professionals across the country.

Read the Bristol & Severn ODN workshop report [here](#), and the Lancashire & South Cumbria ODN workshop report [here](#).

marked the fifth annual [European HIV-Hepatitis Testing Week](#), with partner organisations from over 50 countries organising testing in their communities and distributing materials about the importance of getting tested.

* [Public Health England](#) has published its annual alcohol and drug treatment statistics for 2016-17. The numbers of people treated for alcohol and drugs have dropped by 3%, the largest decrease in six years. The decrease is primarily due to a reduction in people starting treatment for alcohol problems only, with numbers falling by 12%. Deaths among people in treatment for opioid use are still high and have increased since last year, though deaths among people in treatment from alcohol are down 7% from the previous year. Read a summary of the data [here](#).

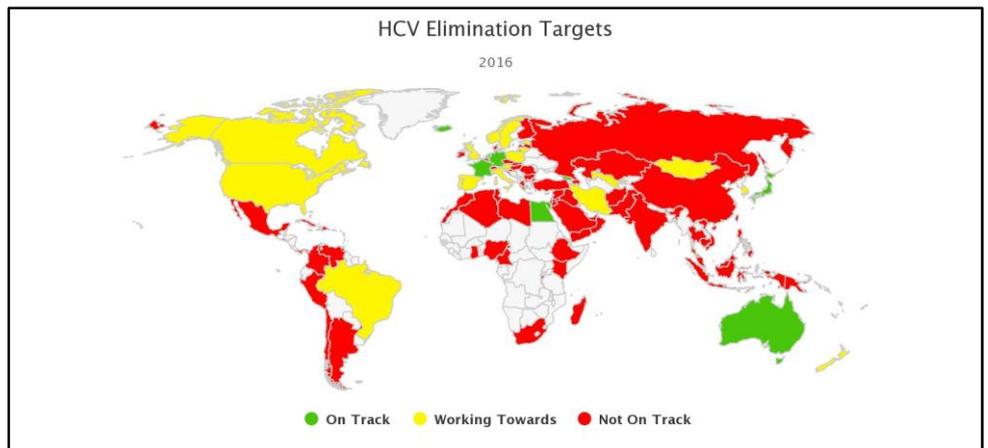
* Study results presented at the [2017 AASLD Liver Meeting](#) in Washington, DC show nearly perfect SVR12 rates in patients treated for 6 to 8 weeks with a new triple therapy combination. The 6-week treatment duration is two weeks shorter than any treatment currently in use, with researchers highlighting that any shortening of treatment would have the benefits of improved patient compliance, convenience, and tolerability. Read a summary of the study [here](#).

*A new article in [The International Journal of Drug Policy](#) presents the findings of an Australian investigation into the benefits of peer education for HCV diagnosis and treatment. The authors argue that there is a need for greater investment in peer programmes due to their unique value for PWID. Read the article [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.

New data from Polaris Observatory shows UK not on track to eliminate HCV by 2030



New data on hepatitis C released by the [Polaris Observatory](#) and presented at the World Hepatitis Summit in Sao Paulo, Brazil, show that the UK is not one of the nine countries on course to eliminate hepatitis C by 2030.

Brazil, Egypt, Australia and Georgia are key countries highlighted at the Summit as making great strides towards elimination. In Egypt, mass screening initiatives have been implemented, and generic copies of treatments are being sold for under \$200 per course. In Australia, there is universal access to treatment as a result of a \$1 billion investment over 5 years.

Germany, Iceland, Japan, the Netherlands, and Qatar are also expected to eliminate hepatitis C by 2030. The UK is listed among 22 countries categorised as 'working towards elimination'.

The [Polaris Observatory](#) is a public health research firm based in the USA and managed by the non-profit [CDA Foundation](#), with expertise in epidemiology and disease modelling.

View the full Polaris data [here](#) and a news story summarising the research [here](#).

World Hepatitis Summit in Sao Paolo brings together experts from over 100 countries



The World Hepatitis Summit, a biennial conference jointly organised by the [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) and the [World Hepatitis Alliance](#), took

place on 1-3 November in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

The Summit seeks to encourage more countries to take decisive action to eliminate hepatitis, and promote discussion of international best practice in testing and treatment provision. Participant nations at the Summit signed a declaration reaffirming their commitment to the global hepatitis agenda.

New data released at the summit showed the number of people newly treated for hepatitis C worldwide increased from 1.1 million in 2015 to 1.76 million in

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.

2016. However, rates of new infections remain steady, and access to treatment must be significantly increased globally if the WHO 80% treatment target is to be met by 2030.

View resources and presentations from the Summit [here](#), and read a news story about the Summit [here](#).

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

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