

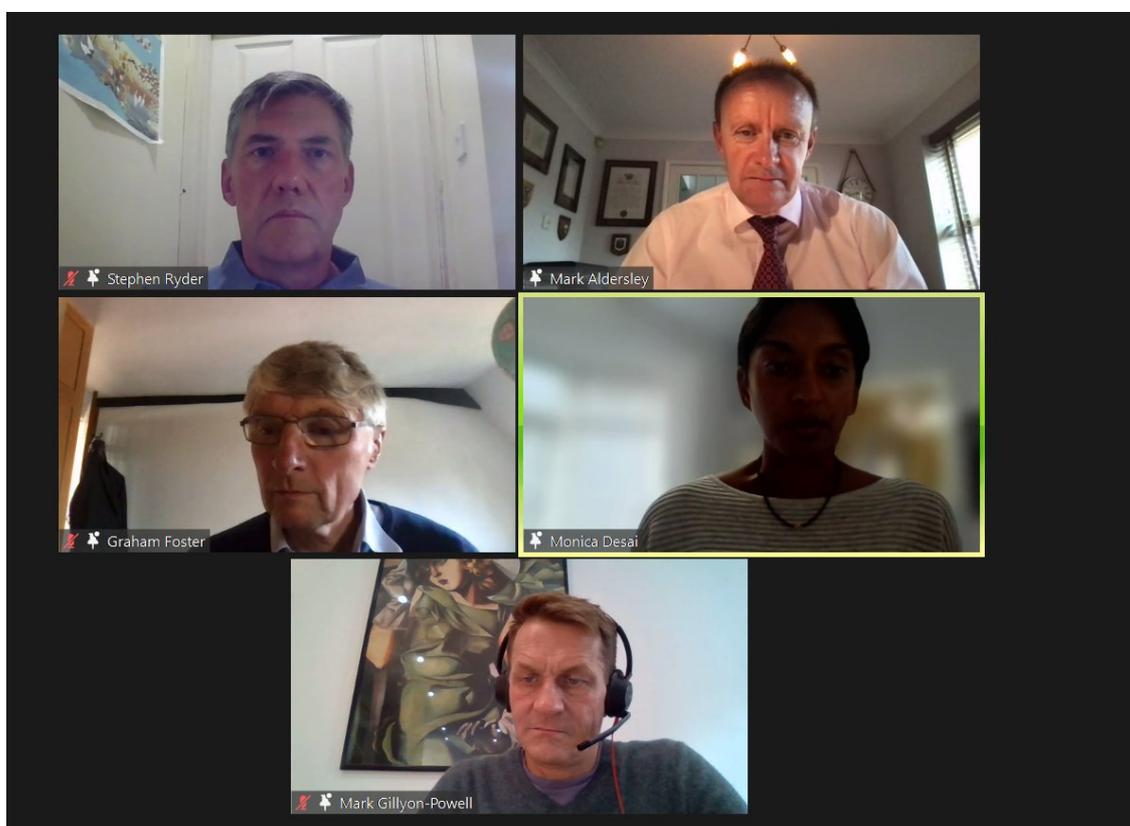
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# HCVAction

Bringing you the latest hepatitis C news and events

November 2021

## HCV Action National ODN Stakeholder webinar series held in November



[HCV Action](#)'s National Hepatitis C ODN Stakeholder Webinar series took place across November, exploring progress towards hepatitis C elimination and how we can find and treat infections and prevent new ones across a variety of settings.

- The series began with the half-day National Hepatitis C ODN Stakeholder Webinar, featuring national updates from [NHS England](#) HCV Elimination Programme Leads **Professor Graham Foster** and **Mark Gillyon-Powell**, the [UK Health Security Agency](#)'s **Dr Monica Desai** on measuring progress to elimination, and [HCV Action](#) Chair **Professor Stephen Ryder** on the ODN perspective. The webinar also featured talks on 20 years of

[The Hepatitis C Trust](#) from Chief Executive Rachel Halford, the peer/patient perspective from Sue Reilly and Kay Walton of [The Hepatitis C Trust](#), and updates on the elimination initiatives from each of the three elimination deal industry representatives and their delivery partners. If you missed it you can access the [slides here](#) or [watch a recording of the first section of the webinar here](#).

- The second webinar looked at hepatitis C in the criminal justice system, with presentations from **Daniel Stretton** ([National Probation Service](#)), **Lee Christensen** ([The Hepatitis C Trust](#)), **Stephen Goodwin** ([HMP Elmley](#) Governor), **Harriet Tizard** ([HMP Bronzefield](#) Clinical Team) and **Georgia Threadgold** ([NHS England](#)). [Watch the video here](#).
- Next, the role of community pharmacies in combating hepatitis C was explored, with presentations from **Mark Gillyon-Powell** and clinical experts **Dr Ahmed Elsharkawy**, **Dr Ryan Buchanan** and **Helen Boothman**. [Watch the video here](#).
- Ahead of the [HCV Action/Hepatitis C Trust](#) report on reinfections and how to prevent them - due to be published in December 2021 - the fourth webinar focused on what we know about reinfections and harm reduction. Speakers included **Dr Ruth Simmons** from the [UK Health Security Agency](#), **Stuart Smith** and **Nathan Motherwell** from [The Hepatitis C Trust](#), and **Professor Graham Foster** from [NHS England](#). [Watch the video here](#).

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## HCV Action 2021 ODN survey - findings

## HCV Action 2021 ODN Survey Report

### Overview

In advance of the [2021 HCV Action National Hepatitis C ODN Stakeholder Webinar](#), HCV Action developed and distributed a survey to all of England's [Hepatitis C Operational Delivery Networks](#) seeking their perspective on various aspects of hepatitis C care and the elimination programme. Responses were received from 19 of the 23 regional ODNs.

The findings from the survey were presented at the webinar by Professor Stephen Ryder, HCV Action Chair and Clinical Lead for the Nottingham ODN. The presentation can be viewed [here](#) from 48.09. This report provides a written overview of the findings, including some additional material not able to be covered in the time available for the webinar presentation.

### Progress to elimination

Encouragingly, the vast majority of ODNs expect to reach elimination before or by the NHS England target of 2025, with four expecting to reach elimination in advance of 2025 and nine by 2025. However, five expect to miss the 2025 target, with one unsure.

Three of the four who said they expect to reach elimination before 2025 were London ODNs.



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- Most ODNs expect to reach elimination either before or by the NHS England target
- Funding for ODNs is generally felt to be adequate, but there is concern about insufficient funding for drug services
- Peer-to-peer support, outreach vans and prison/probation service HITTs are particularly popular elimination initiatives
- ODNs are still facing challenges in engaging primary care and pharmacies in elimination initiatives
- More peer support, more BBV nurses, access to an outreach van and increased testing in drug services would aid elimination
- ODNs have concerns around the accuracy of prevalence estimates - some need more up-to-date data
- Testing rates and needle & syringe provision are still lower than they were pre-pandemic in most ODN areas
- The pandemic led to innovations in prison hepatitis C care, some of which will continue.

[This report provides a full written overview.](#)

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## New study: DAA treatment reduces risk of tumours for hepatitis C-related hepatocellular carcinoma patients



Researchers at Osaka City University Graduate School of Medicine in Japan have found that treatment with direct-acting antivirals (DAAs) **"significantly" reduces the risk of tumour progression in people with hepatitis C-related hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC).**

In a new cohort study of patients with hepatitis C virus-related HCC, a disease with a high recurrence rate, the researchers reported that after receiving cancer treatment, the oral administration of DAAs reduces the risk of tumor progression following recurrence of the liver disease. The findings were published in the [Journal of Viral Hepatitis](#).

"DAA therapy is effective at eradicating the hepatitis C virus, a major risk factor for HCC" says Professor Norifumi Kawada, professor of the Department of Hepatology. While the team will continue to investigate issues like the extent to which liver cirrhosis and function improve after the antiviral treatment, as supporting author and Lecturer Sawako Uchida-Kobayashi puts it, "the suppressing effect of DAA therapy on cancer progression revealed by our study gives us hope to improve the overall quality of life for people with HCC".

The full paper is [here](#), and a summary [here](#).

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## News and reports

\* Want to work full-time on eliminating hepatitis C? [The Hepatitis C Trust are growing their team and advertising for](#) a Peer Support Lead in Sussex, a Prison HITT Coordinator and a Prison Peer Lead for the East of England.

\* The South London ODN is looking for an ODN Project Manager. Find out more about the role and how to apply [here](#).

\* The South Yorkshire ODN have recently ordered a clinic van and are looking for a driver - you can find out more about this role and apply [here](#).

\* There have been two [updates on the Infected Blood Inquiry and the Infected Blood Compensation Framework Study](#). The deadline for written submissions to the Compensation Framework Study has been extended to **December 19th** (the [previous deadline](#) had been December 5th, announced alongside a series of online meetings for those affected by infected blood), while new December and January hearing dates featuring a number of medical experts have been announced for the main Inquiry.

\* Consultations, testing and treatment of hepatitis B and C virus fell significantly worldwide during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a [presentation by Dr Maria Buti](#) of the liver unit in the internal medicine department at [Hospital Universitari Vall d'hebron](#) to the The Liver Meeting Digital Experience. She projected a one year delay in hepatitis diagnosis and treatment could result in an additional number of liver cancers and deaths from HCV globally by 2030.

\* In a new interview, the fifth of [The Hepatitis C Trust's #PeerSupportMeans](#) series, Women's Prison Peer Coordinator [Julia Sheehan talks about](#) her experiences of hepatitis C and the value of peer support.

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

Please encourage colleagues to join HCV Action for free hepatitis C related updates and tools by emailing their full contact details to [\*\*hcvaction@hepctrust.org.uk\*\*](mailto:hcvaction@hepctrust.org.uk).

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