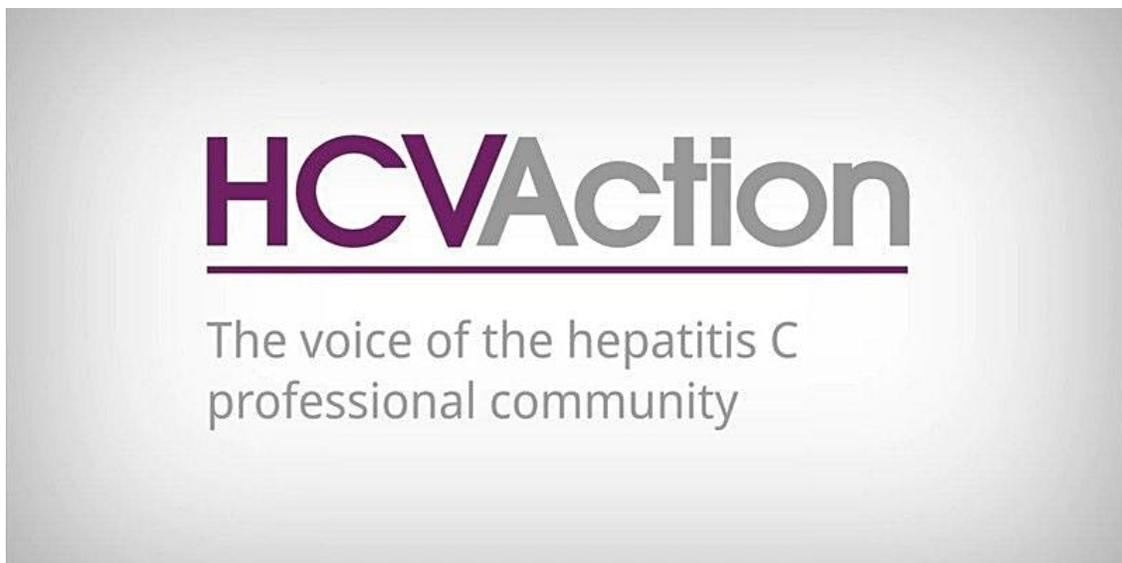


# HCVAction

Bringing you the latest hepatitis C news and events

October 2021

## Registration open for HCV Action Reinfections and Harm Prevention Webinar



[Our apologies for the first link below being incorrect in Friday's email]

[Registration is now open](#) for this year's [HCV Action](#) Hepatitis C reinfections and harm prevention webinar.

The webinar will broadly address reinfection, ways to prevent it, and the extent to which it poses a barrier to elimination, and will run from **11:00 to 12:40 on Monday 15th November**. The event will take place on zoom and joining instructions will be sent to attendees nearer the time.

Speakers from Public Health England, [The Hepatitis C Trust](#), and [Leeds City Council](#) will give talks on how reinfections tie into elimination efforts, and host a Q&A session to answer audience questions.

As part of our webinar series in November, we will also be hosting other webinars on areas of hepatitis C care. Our webinar on [hepatitis C in the criminal justice system](#) will take place from **11.30-13.10 on Monday 8th**

**November**, and explore approved premises, probation and the prison estate. Our webinar on [hepatitis C and community pharmacies](#) is at **11:00-12:30 on Thursday 11th November** and looks into testing and treatment in pharmacies.

Further information on the series, including other upcoming webinars, can be found on the [HCV Action Twitter](#) feed.

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## **Last chance to register for National Hepatitis C ODN Stakeholder Webinar taking place on Monday**



Registrations are about to close for this year's [HCV Action Hepatitis C ODN Stakeholder Webinar Event](#). This half-day event will feature a range of updates on the elimination programme and opportunities for attendees to question speakers.

Organised and hosted by [HCV Action](#) in partnership with the [British Viral Hepatitis Group](#), the main half-day webinar will run from **13.30 to 17.00 on Monday November 1st** and feature presentations on a range of topics of relevance to ODNs. The event will take place via Zoom and joining instructions will be sent to attendees nearer the time.

The webinar will feature contributions from the NHS England Hepatitis C Elimination Programme Leads, [Public Health England](#) and [The Hepatitis C Trust](#), as well as updates on specific elimination initiatives.

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## **Good practice case study: The Hepatitis C Trust's West Midlands Test and Treat Roadshow**

## The Hepatitis C Trust's West Midlands Test and Treat Roadshow

*An example of improving access to treatment*

[HCV Action](#) have just published our most recent good practice case study on the West Midlands Test and Treat Road Show.

The Road Show, run by [The Hepatitis C Trust](#), ran from 27th November 2019 until 31st January 2020 in a selection of towns and cities in the West Midlands and, from September 2020, entered its second phase, concluding in September 2021.

The aim of the service was to target people who inject drugs (PWID) not currently accessing treatment services or with a historic lack of engagement with hepatitis C care. The project was one of the first services in the country to complete testing in under an hour and complete treatment in only two visits, thus alleviating the need to attend multiple appointments in the community.

The programme was a great example of overcoming barriers and improving access to care. [Follow this link to read the case study](#) on our HCV Action website.

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### News and reports

\* [University Hospitals Bristol](#) and [Weston NHS Foundation Trust](#) (UHBW) has helped secure Hepatitis C micro-elimination status at HMP Leyhill. Find out more [here](#).

\* A [report](#) in the [Journal of Viral Hepatitis](#) suggests that the activity levels of the proteins involved in liver scarring, or cirrhosis, begin to decrease immediately after treatment for the hepatitis C virus (HCV), suggesting the possibility of early healing. Understanding these changes could shed light on whether the treatment, which is curative of HCV, sets the body on a course to reverse the damage done by long-term infection.

\* In an interview, published by [The Hepatitis C Trust](#) as part of their [#PeerSupportMeans](#) series, Julia Sheehan, Women's Prison Peer Coordinator, talks about her experiences of hepatitis C and the value of peer

support. Read Julia's experiences and insights [here](#).

\* Following a consultation held over the summer, Sir Robert Francis has set out the proposed [Terms of Reference](#) for the study he will lead to assess how compensation should be awarded to people given infected blood. Read The Hepatitis C Trust's summary [here](#).

\* The rate of new hepatitis C infections halved among gay and bisexual men with HIV in France between 2014 and 2017 following the introduction of direct-acting antivirals, a French cohort study has reported. Read more on the study and researchers' observations [here](#).

\* An investigative podcast by Cara McGoogan, explores the infected blood scandal and delves into the lives and experiences of those affected. Find out more and listen to the podcast [here](#).

\* A victim of the [infected blood scandal](#) is suing the school where he contracted HIV and hepatitis C after learning that students were treated as medical guinea pigs. An [article](#) by [The Telegraph](#) tells the story of Gary Webster, 56, who is taking the action against the Lord Mayor Treloar College for negligence and breach of statutory duty over its care of 122 boys with haemophilia who studied there in 1970s and 1980s.

\* A new national report highlights a decline in hepatitis C testing and treatment uptake, putting Australia at risk of not achieving its target of eliminating hepatitis C as a public health threat by 2030. This [article](#) examines the reasons behind the decline.

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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).



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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