

September 2016

*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...

\* New statistics, which can be seen [here](#), show that 2,918 laboratory reports of hepatitis C were reported to **PHE** in the first quarter of 2016. This represented an 8.5% increase in the same quarter in 2015.

\* After the publication of a report by a group convened by the **Scottish Government** following the **Penrose Inquiry**, an awareness campaign is to be launched to find victims of the contaminated blood disaster who are still undiagnosed. All clinicians in Scotland are also to receive a letter reminding them to test for hepatitis C, and emphasising the benefits of new therapies. For the full story, see [here](#).

\* The UK Parliament's **Health Select Committee** has published its report into 'Public Health Post-2013'. Among the report's recommendations are the protection of public health funding, as well as the development of a national support programme to improve the availability of data to local authorities. The report can be read [here](#).

\* **PHE** have published new health profiles for each local authority area in England, which can be accessed [here](#). As well as providing data on some specific disease areas, the profiles also provide statistics related to health inequalities and deprivation; both of which are linked to hepatitis C prevalence.

## Community pharmacy testing pilot proves a success



**New research** has shown that community pharmacists could have a significant role to play in increasing the numbers of people tested and diagnosed for hepatitis C.

The research was based upon a pilot on the Isle of Wight, which involved the delivery of dried blood spot testing in 22

community pharmacies over a 9 month period. In this time, tests were carried out on 88 people; 39 of whom were people who use drugs and 17 of whom had not accessed the island's substance misuse service. 7% of all those who were tested returned positive RNA results.

Rachel Halford, Deputy Chief Executive of **The Hepatitis C Trust**, said:

"This adds to the evidence that community pharmacies could be playing a key role in finding the 100,000 people thought to be living unknowingly with hepatitis C in the UK and ensuring those newly diagnosed are on the path to treatment."

Kevin Noble, a community pharmacist who was involved in the study, said:

"The idea isn't rocket science. Community pharmacists are running needle exchange services already and needle exchange users are a primary risk for hepatitis C."

## Hepatitis C patient survey launched



At a time of great change in the nature of hepatitis C treatments and the way in which these treatments are delivered, it is more important than ever to gauge the views of patients and ensure that their voices are central to the development and delivery of services.

With this in mind, a new survey has been launched which aims to better understand the current barriers and challenges faced by people living with

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](mailto:hcvaction@hepctrust.org.uk).*

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](mailto:hcvaction@hepctrust.org.uk).

hepatitis C in the UK, and ascertain their views on the care and support that they have received.

The survey is being promoted in a collaboration between **The Hepatitis C Trust** and the pharmaceutical company **MSD**, and is open to anyone living with hepatitis C across the UK. If you work with people living with hepatitis C, please do encourage them to participate in the survey, which can be accessed [here](#).

## Last HCV Action Bristol roadshow places still available



Final preparations are underway for **HCV Action** and **Public Health England's** hepatitis C good practice roadshow in Bristol, which is being held on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September.

The roadshow, which is the second of three such events to be held in

England this year, features a line-up of speakers that includes Dr Fiona Gordon (ODN Clinical Lead and Consultant Hepatologist, **Bristol Royal Infirmary**); **Professor Matthew Hickman** (Professor of Public Health and Epidemiology, Bristol University); Erik Hills (Clinical Nurse Specialist, **Bristol Royal Infirmary**), Vaughan Lewis (Clinical Director, **NHS England** Specialised Commissioning) and more. As well as a range of presentations, there will also be afternoon workshops focusing on the new ODN structure in the region, hepatitis C in prisons, and awareness and testing in drug services.

There are still some places available for the event, which forms part of a broader **HCV Action** 'action week' in the area, with quick registration being advised. You can view the full programme and venue details, as well register for the event, [here](#).

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

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