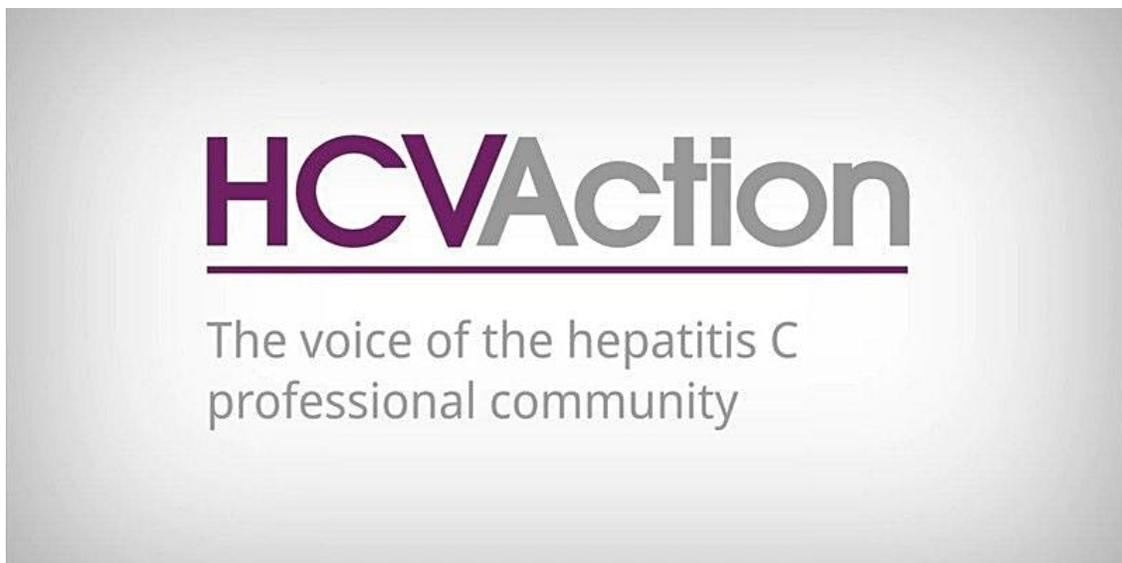


HCVAction

Bringing you the latest hepatitis C news and events

September 2021

Registration open for HCV Action National Hepatitis C ODN Stakeholder Webinar series



[Registration is now open](#) 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.

The main half-day webinar will be followed by a series of four webinars on specific aspects of hepatitis C care. The first to be announced is focused on

[hepatitis C in the criminal justice system](#) and will take place from **11.30-13.10 on Monday 8th November**. Further webinars in the series will be announced shortly - keep an eye on the [HCV Action Twitter](#) feed.

Infected blood compensation framework study terms of reference published



Following a consultation held over the summer, Sir Robert Francis QC 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, should it be recommended when the Infected Blood Inquiry concludes. Thousands of people contracted hepatitis C and/or HIV through NHS blood or blood products before the introduction of comprehensive blood screening in the early 1990s.

Sir Robert's proposals have been accepted by the new Paymaster General Michael Ellis MP, who holds responsibility for both the Infected Blood Inquiry and Compensation Framework Study. The Terms of Reference for the review have now been [published in full online here](#).

The Terms of Reference on compensation will only consider the approach to compensation as a general principle, in order to avoid pre-empting what the main Infected Blood Inquiry will decide, but will advise the Government on the design of a “workable and fair framework for compensation”, the scope of eligibility, types of award and methods of assessment for compensation, what other national compensation schemes have done, and how it might be administered.

You can read The Hepatitis C Trust's [response here](#).

Scottish Drug Forum publishes report on learning needs of the sexual health & BBV sector

Sexual Health and Blood Borne Viruses

Learning Needs Report



[A new report](#) from the [Scottish Drugs Forum](#) was released in September, assessing the learning needs of the Sexual Health and BBV sector across Scotland. The assessment is part of the SDF's contribution to delivering the [Scottish Government Sexual Health and Blood Borne Virus Framework](#).

Based on an online survey that was completed by 270 frontline workers across the NHS, third sector and local authorities, the report's aim was to give an overall perspective and understanding of the training needs and knowledge gaps of workers in relation to sexual health and BBVs. Results showed that respondents felt most knowledgeable in the causes and effects of stigma, and the least knowledgeable in the elimination of hepatitis C - face-to-face training was the first choice means of learning for 75.4% of respondents.

The report recommends more training opportunities for those working with specific populations at increased risk of poor sexual health and BBVs, a return to face-to-face training opportunities (when safe to do so), earlier & continuing education for workers about sexual health and BBVs, information for frontline staff about key government targets such as the elimination of viral hepatitis and working towards zero transmissions of HIV, and efforts to combat stigma around sexual health and drug use at all levels of society.

News and reports

* NHS England have provided [an updated list](#) of Operational Delivery Networks (ODNs) and Clinical Leads, which has now been added to the HCV Action website.

* The Hepatitis C Trust has responded to a consultation on priorities for the Welsh Parliament Health and Social Care Committee, including a call for a

comprehensive national elimination strategy for hepatitis C. Read the [full submission](#) here.

* The nursing director of [Humankind](#), a charity that provides drug and alcohol support, [expressed concerns about a fall in people accessing its needle exchange services](#) since the coronavirus pandemic. She was speaking as the charity launched a [new set of standards for needle and syringe provision](#) across all its substance misuse facilities in England, aiming to reduce harms and increase links to other services.

* An [investigation by the *Pharmaceutical Journal*](#) found that less than one in ten pharmacies in England have registered to deliver the new Hepatitis C Antibody Testing Service in its first year. Only 662 community pharmacies out of more than 11,800 in England have registered to deliver the service, and they had carried out just 119 hepatitis C antibody tests since the service's launch. Rachel Halford's response [from The Hepatitis C Trust calls for](#) expanding eligibility for pharmacy testing to those accessing opioid substitution therapy or otherwise not accessing drug treatment.

* The Hepatitis C Trust have published new #PeerSupportMeans blogs with [Lee Devereux](#), manager of the South Region Prisons team, and [Zoe Yates](#), Peer Coordinator for the Sussex area, talking about the value of peer support.

* In the US, scientists from [National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases \(NIAID\)](#) have published a new paper [on how hepatitis C enters into cells](#) - the [US National Institutes of Health \(NIH\)](#) suggested the findings could aid in the development of a vaccine for hepatitis C.

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.



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.

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