



BBV bulletin:

Monthly update report of the introduction of opt-out
BBV testing in prisons from PHE, NHS England &
NOMS

Issue 3, September 2014

Pathfinder site evaluation

A questionnaire has been designed by the national BBV Opt-out Testing Task & Finish Group for pathfinder prisons to complete. This will enable us to learn lessons from these sites and share experiences in an objective and consistent way. The questionnaire has been piloted at HMP Leeds and will be circulated to PHE Health and Justice Leads within our Centres in October for completion. PHE Health and Justice leads will be asked to work with commissioners and providers in completing this. Following the submission of the evaluations a report will be collated by the national BBV Opt-out Testing Task & Finish Group and will identify lessons that can be learned and shared from the first 6 months of the policy.

The definition of a pathfinder is “those prisons who are recommending BBV testing to people in prison as per national guidance. As an identified pathfinder, the prison will be evaluated based on the national guidance to enable lessons to be learned and shared across the estate with regards to the implementation of this policy.”

HCV Action to publish secondary care contact list for hepatitis C

A contact list has now been developed which details all secondary care contacts responsible for providing hepatitis C treatment in prisons across England. Providers have requested this to help with patient continuity of care when prisoners are transferred to another prison. We will inform stakeholders when this goes live.

Yorkshire & the Humber update

The BBV project management group met again on 22 September to discuss progress of their two pathfinders – HMP Hull and HMP Leeds. Both prisons report that first reception is not a suitable time to provide the BBV test as prisoners are mainly concerned with their immediate needs. Instead the test should be recommended at the second healthcare appointment. Yorkshire and Humber have also agreed that they will hold a second BBV event in February 2015 to review progress and share the experiences of their two pathfinder sites with other prisons.

For more information about the national BBV opt-out policy

There is lots of information available which explains what the policy is all about. We have produced supporting documents to help stakeholders to implement this work which includes the national algorithms. These documents can be accessed under ‘Improving testing rates for blood-borne viruses in prisons and other secure settings’ at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bloodborne-viruses-monthly-report-on-opt-out-testing-in-prisons>

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