



# BBV bulletin:

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

Issue 4, October 2014

## Pathfinder site evaluation

A questionnaire has now been circulated to all our pathfinder sites for completion by 7 November. The questionnaire focusses on five key themes:

- **testing practice**, eg when is testing recommended, what tests are used, which team(s) do the testing, how are existing prisoners being tested, educational materials provided etc
- **specialist referrals and assessment**, eg treatment model and waiting times for specialist assessment
- **planning and review of the BBV opt-out testing policy**, eg is there a local group overseeing the implementation of the work, what are the main issues that pathfinders have had to address to effectively introduce the policy and how have they done this, any current issues affecting the work etc
- **activity** – numbers tested, numbers positive, numbers referred for specialist assessment and numbers commencing treatment
- **other comments**, eg details about the impact of the policy and how the prison has managed to implement the BBV opt-out testing policy which may help other prisons

Following submission of the evaluations a report will be collated by the national BBV opt-out testing task & finish group which will identify lessons that can be learned and shared from the first 6 months of the policy.

## Next stage pathfinders

There are currently 11 pathfinder prisons nationally. However an additional 15 prisons are likely to start implementing the work over the next few weeks and they will join the second round of evaluations in 2015. More details about this work will follow.



## Secondary care hepatitis C contact list for prisons launched

**HCV Action** have published a list of the hospital contact details of secondary care lead consultants and nurses in England responsible for hepatitis C treatment. The document lists the detention centre to which each hospital is connected, the hospital providing treatment, and the lead consultant / nurse name, email address and telephone number. It is aimed at supporting the roll-out of opt-out BBV testing. Further details can be accessed at:

<http://www.hcvaction.org.uk/resource/database-secondary-care-prison-hospital-contacts-hepatitis-c-treatment>

HCV Action will be keeping the list updated, any changes should be sent to:

[grace.everest@hepctrust.org.uk](mailto:grace.everest@hepctrust.org.uk)

## United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime review of HIV services in prisons

The National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, University of New South Wales, Australia is currently undertaking a review HIV services in prisons around the world on behalf of the United Nations office on Drugs and Crime. The review focusses on various key themes including:

- education and communication on HIV
- HIV testing and counselling
- harm reduction including condom programmes, prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV, prevention of HIV transmission through tattooing and piercing, needle and syringe exchange and prevention of sexual violence
- vaccination, diagnosis and treatment of viral hepatitis
- TB prevention, diagnosis and treatment

We have provided the response for England and will publish the link for the findings when completed.

### 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>

### Contact for further information:

[Health&justice@phe.gov.uk](mailto:Health&justice@phe.gov.uk)

PHE Gateway No: 2014481 / NHS England Gateway No: 02477