



BBV bulletin:

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

Issue 2, July 2014

Pathfinder site progress

Following on from our first monthly bulletin in June 2014, we thought it would be useful to include the names of the 12 prisons which have been identified as pathfinder sites across four of the ten lead NHS England Area Teams (ATs) for health and justice. The aim of identifying these prisons is to learn lessons from their experiences which can then be shared with stakeholders. The identified pathfinder prisons are:

Lancashire AT

- HMP Kirkham
- HMP Manchester
- HMP Buckley Hall
- HMP & YOI Forest Bank

West Yorkshire AT

- HMP Hull
- HMP Leeds

Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire AT

- HMP Nottingham
- HMP Leicester
- HMP Stocken

Bristol, North Somerset, Somerset & South Gloucestershire AT

- HMP Dartmoor
- HMP Channings Wood
- HMP Exeter

The national BBV Task & Finish Group have been collecting information from ATs and PHE around the current provision across the estate regarding BBVs. This information is being collated into a report. Examples of work are included below.

East Midlands

As part of the prison BBV programme the East Midlands is rolling out a phased implementation of dried blood spot testing (DBST) to test for hepatitis B, C and HIV within its 12 prisons, with the first 4 prisons moving to this testing method in July and August. This way of testing removes the need for venepuncture (allowing more staff



to be able to offer it) and is ideal for prisoners with poor venous access or damaged peripheral veins.

The programme is supported by the NHS England AT, the four county hepatologists, providers and prison healthcare staff. An agreement with the local EMPATH laboratory enables the tests to be conducted at a local NHS laboratory.

An evaluation of the programme will take place following the first 6 weeks to evaluate the uptake of testing, prevalence and any issues identified.

Yorkshire & the Humber

NHS England has appointed a project manager, Gurmit Kular to oversee the implementation of this work in Yorkshire and the Humber. Gurmit will be working closely with Paul Moore, PHE Yorkshire and Humber's health and justice public health specialist to ensure that their identified pathfinder sites, HMP Hull and HMP Leeds are supported to be the first to implement the policy across the patch. Paul and Gurmit will also be looking to support the other establishments to implement the work over the next 12-18 months.

HMP Leeds have continued offering BBV testing to new receptions and have more than doubled their rate of testing to over 100 per month. There is a well-established relationship between the prison and local community drugs service and they are finding that many offered the test in prison are declining it because they have recently been tested in the community.

HMP Hull has increased testing by 100 in the last 3 months testing around 33 new receptions per month. Overall, they have found 6 new hepatitis C cases in that time, 4 of whom were high-risk but 2 of whom were not and would not have been targeted for testing under the previous policy. There has been a good uptake of testing so far which they report is testament to the enthusiastic and positive way that the test is being offered.

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 over the page, these documents can be accessed under 'BBV opt-out supporting documents' at:

<http://www.hpa.org.uk/Topics/InfectiousDiseases/InfectionsAZ/PublicHealthInPrisonsTeam/Guidelines/>

If you were unable to attend the national event and would like to view the presentations go to: https://www.phe-events.org.uk/HPA/media/uploaded/EVHPA/event_355/FINAL%20Full%20Day%20Presentation.pdf

Please note there will be no bulletin in August, the next issue will be published in September.

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