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# BBV bulletin:

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

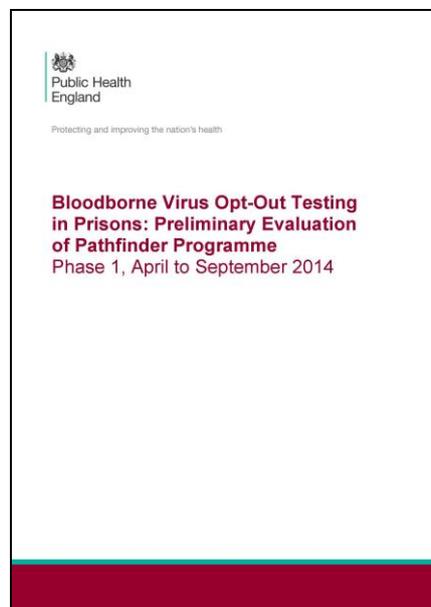
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## Early lessons learnt from the opt-out blood-borne virus (BBV) testing policy in prisons, 21 May 2015, Birmingham

This national event follows last year's launch of the BBV opt-out testing in prisons policy. There have been many developments over the past year and the aim of the day was to reconvene to review progress and learn lessons from the phase 1 pathfinder prisons.

The event reached capacity with over 100 delegates representing a wide range of stakeholders including Positively UK, NAT, The Hepatitis C Trust, prison healthcare, NHS England commissioners, PHE, NOMS and secondary care clinicians.

The conference was opened by Dr Éamonn O'Moore, Director, Health and Justice, PHE who discussed the formal launch on the day of the phase 1 pathfinder evaluation '**Blood-borne virus opt-out testing in prisons: evaluation of pathfinder programme, phase 1 April to September 2014**'.



Presentations followed by Simon Marshall, Head of Health, Wellbeing and Substance Misuse Co-Commissioning, NOMS who discussed the partnership approach to the BBV opt-out testing policy in prisons as agreed in the **National Partnership Agreement 2015-16** and Chris Kelly Assistant Head of Health and Justice and Claire



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Foreman, Senior Programme of Care Manager, Blood and Infection, Specialised Commissioning, NHS England who both discussed the commissioning challenges and opportunities with the work. Also presenting in the opening section was James Bright, Wales who discussed the 'lived experience' which was extremely well received and thought provoking.

A number of presentations were given by some of the pathfinder prisons:

- testing models for BBVs, Susanne Howes, PHE and Julie Henderson, HMP Stocken
- treatment models for BBVs and use of the direct acting antivirals for hepatitis C in prisons, Jayne Dodd, Hepatitis Specialist Nurse for prisons, North Manchester General Hospital
- effectively managing continuity of care, Dr Iain Brew, HMP Leeds

The focussed sessions in the afternoon addressed the key parts of the BBV pathway and looked at how testing, treatment and continuity of care for BBVs can be improved in a prison and wider community setting. The common themes throughout the workshops included:

- workforce development - staff training and education to produce a cultural shift and reduce the stigma of BBVs
- the opportunities for dried blood spot testing
- good communication and partnership working between different teams within the prison as well as effective links with community services and having formal pathways in place
- the importance of peer support

All the **presentations** are available on-line and a summary of proceeding from the day will be published and circulated to stakeholders by mid-July.

## Pathfinder prisons phase 2 and 3

Pathfinders are defined as those prisons who are recommending BBV testing to people in prison and have a well-defined care pathway for individuals testing positive as per national guidance. As part of the pathfinder programme these prisons will be evaluated after 6 months of implementation of the opt-out BBV testing policy to inform roll-out of the programme across the whole adult estate in England by Q4 2016/17. Following the success of the phase 1 programme in 2014, there are now 10 prisons implementing the opt-out BBV testing work as part of the phase 2 roll out. Phase 3 pathfinders are currently being identified to start as part of the next stage of the roll out after the summer. Recruitment for phase 3 is occurring over the summer to include at least one London prison.

### Contact for further information:

Health&justice@phe.gov.uk

PHE Gateway No: 2015155 / NHS England Gateway No: 03604

## World Hepatitis Day 28 July

Lots of activities are taking place to mark World Hepatitis Day on 28 July including the publication of PHE's **HCV in the UK report**. Dr. Éamonn O'Moore, PHE and Archie Christian, The Hepatitis C Trust are also being interviewed on National Prison Radio in the lead up to the day about testing for hepatitis C in prisons, including access to treatment and care. There is lots of useful information available to get ideas about how you can use the day to raise awareness about viral hepatitis, further details are available at:

World Hepatitis Alliance - <http://www.worldhepatitisalliance.org/>

The Hepatitis C Trust - <http://www.hepctrust.org.uk/>

## HCV Action / PHE Road shows

PHE in partnership with **HCV Action** have run two road shows in Liverpool and London. Both days were attended by over 100 people locally and involved presentations from local and national experts in hepatitis C. The London event also included a focus on the implementation of the opt-out BBV work in prisons.

Two further road shows are being planned for the remainder of 2015 throughout the UK to enhance local service provision and showcase and share good practice in the prevention, testing, diagnosis and treatment of hepatitis C.

## New film on hepatitis C aimed at healthcare professionals

A new film to raise awareness and increase knowledge of hepatitis C amongst prison healthcare staff, GPs and other primary care practitioners has been launched by the Royal College of GPs, the Hepatitis C Trust and HCV Action.

The open-access film aims to increase healthcare professionals' knowledge about the virus, build their confidence in diagnosing and supporting patients and inform them of the new and highly effective treatments available.

The high prevalence of hepatitis C amongst prisoners makes this a very useful film for all prison staff. The film, 'Detecting and Managing Hepatitis C in Primary Care' is available to view for free on the **HCV Action website**.

The 47-minute film is split into four 12-minute bite-size sections, each of which is also available as a stand-alone short film on the [resources pages](#) of the HCV Action website. The sections are:

- Section 1: The impact and consequences of hepatitis C
- Section 2: Identifying those at risk

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- Section 3: Current and future treatments
- Section 4: Supporting people through treatment

Addressing the needs of people in prison as well as the general community, this course provides an understanding of hepatitis C and its prevalence. It also gives an overview of the liver and its function, and the stages and natural history of untreated hepatitis C liver disease. The course can be accessed at:

<http://elearning.rcgp.org.uk/hepc>

**For more information about the national BBV opt-out policy**

There is a wide range of information available which explains the purpose of this policy. We have produced supporting documents to help partners to implement this work, including 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/improving-testing-rates-for-blood-borne-viruses-in-prisons-and-other-secure-settings>

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