



Protecting and improving the nation's health

January 2016

Dear Colleague,

Reducing harm from Hepatitis C is a priority for the NHS. In 2012 about 5000 people received drug treatment for HCV in the UK, i.e. about 3% of the prevalent pool of infected patients receives treatment each year.

Public Health England would like to support the work of local public health and health communities through the provision of information on the local burden of disease and unmet health care needs of people with Hepatitis C. The aim of this essential audit is to describe and quantify the movement of patients along the Hepatitis C care pathway in Bristol. The audit will describe local management of patients against the expected Hepatitis C care pathway. The information obtained from this audit will provide a more realistic estimate of burden of Hepatitis C and the proportion of individuals not engaged with secondary care. A further aim is to collect information on patient demographics and to identify barriers to referral and treatment. The findings from this audit will help inform local strategies to improve both referral and successful treatment numbers from the primary care setting.

By identifying barriers to referral to, and attending, specialist care and uptake of treatment, targeted interventions can be developed to improve the number of patients receiving treatment. Increasing patient numbers receiving treatment for their HCV infection will reduce the future burden of liver disease in the UK.

The audit will involve a review of all cases of Hepatitis C resident in Bristol and reported to Public Health England Health Protection team from the 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016. I am writing to you to inform you that we will be contacting your practice to elicit further information about the testing and management of cases of Hepatitis C registered with your practice and to request your kind assistance with this audit. The information that we would be requesting is included in the attached document.

This audit does not require ethics committee approval. A member of the audit team will contact your practice manager in January to discuss the data collection and, in the meantime, please contact Maya Gobin (maya.gobin@phe.gov.uk) if you have any questions regarding this audit and the above request for information.

For more information about Public Health England please visit:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england>

Thanks for your assistance.

Yours sincerely

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