



LONDON JOINT WORKING GROUP

ON SUBSTANCE USE
+ HEPATITIS C

Hepatitis C – Policy, issues and the journey to hope

London Join Working Group on Substance Use and Hepatitis C (LJWG)

- London estimated 40,000 people, history of injecting drugs have hepatitis C
- Only 2% people a year receive treatment. The picture in Birmingham and other major cities is the same
- Hepatologists, addiction psychiatrists, specialist nurse, 3rd Sector, GP, qualitative sociologist, Hepatitis C Trust
- Formed 2009, improvements in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of hepatitis C in people who use drugs in London

LJWG

- Service provision disjointed and patchy, action needed, major public health crisis
- Common aim improving outcomes for people with hepatitis C , vulnerable population
- Collaborate - health service, providers, policy makers, pharmaceutical companies, service users
- October HSJ 2011 updated 2014. *Practical Steps to Eliminating Hepatitis C 2014: A Consensus for London.*
- *Public Health Report on Commissioning of HCV services in London for People who Inject Drugs HSJ 2013*

Background

- Hepatitis C discovered 1980s
- 215,000 people with hepatitis C in the UK
- 160,000 people with hepatitis C in England ¹.
- Preventable, treatable, curable.
- If untreated, liver damage
 - Cirrhosis, liver failure, end stage liver disease, liver cancer.
 - Liver disease as a whole one of UK's five big killers.
- HCV-related end-stage liver disease and deaths have increased steadily over the last 15 years ¹.

Background

- Around 90% of new infections are amongst people who inject drugs (PWID) 1.
- Around half of people who inject psychoactive drugs are thought to be infected, with around 1 in 7 sharing needles/syringes 2.
- People can be cured through a short course of treatment.
- Huge opportunity to eliminate this disease as a public health concern

Action

- Action must be taken
- 1000 people early access NHSE Clinical Policy April 2014
- 3,500 cirrhosis to be treated as a priority 1.
- 81,000 F1- F2 (20- 30% will develop cirrhosis over 20 years)
- 13,000 F3
- 67,000 Don't know they have HCV
- PWIDs, MSM, immigration

Modelling

- Nearly 10,850 individuals are currently living with HCV-related cirrhosis or HCC in England ¹.
- Modelling predicts that this figure will rise to 13,590 in 2025 if low coverage of current treatments is maintained ¹.
- Improved treatments 90% SVR rate, 60% in people with cirrhosis ².
- PEGylated interferon and ribavirin) 37% SVR for genotype 1 and 70% non-1, worse for older patients/more advanced disease ².
- Modelling indicates greater impact for treating sooner rather than later. Elimination by 2030.

1. PHE Hepatitis C in the UK- 2014 report

2. Journal of hepatology 2014, 61:530-537

Modelling

Research Article



 **EASL** EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF THE LIVER | JOURNAL OF HEPATOLOGY

Increased uptake and new therapies are needed to avert rising hepatitis C-related end stage liver disease in England: Modelling the predicted impact of treatment under different scenarios

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Policy responses

- Public Health Outcomes Framework
- Specialised Commissioning
- Public Health England
- Clinical Commissioning Groups
- Collaborative Commissioning
- NICE Technical Appraisal
- Improvement Framework
- Operational Delivery Networks
- Hepatitis C Service Specification
- Comprehensive spending review

Policy responses

- Hep C UK Annual Report
- Devolution Bill
- Opt Out Testing in Prisons
- Hepatitis C in Scotland
- Parliamentary Questions and Answers
- Jane Ellison Hepatitis C and TB Summit
- Vanguard- Models of Care

Pan London approach

- TB - Mobile unit screens 10,000 homeless people and substance users a year across London
- London Health Commission
- Hepatitis C TB Summit - Jane Ellison
- *Improving access to testing, diagnosis, treatment and care are the keys to preventing new infections and controlling tuberculosis (TB), Hepatitis C (HCV), and HIV.*
- Joined up approach, HIV, thalassemia, haemophilia, TB, alcohol related liver disease.

Reference :National Infection & Inequality System NIIS 2014. Task and Finish Project

PTB

0.25% (10% HIV+)

LTBI

17% (19% HCV)

HCV

12% (14% LTBI)

HBV

1% (64% no immunity)

HIV

1%

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Infection	Homeless population [1] Number needed to screen to find 1 case	General adult population Number needed to screen to find 1 case
Latent TB	5 [26% co-infected with Hepatitis C] [2]	Unknown

Yates S, Story A et al. Screening for latent TB infection and blood borne viruses among hard to reach groups in London: the TB Reach study (2012) IUATLD European Meeting London

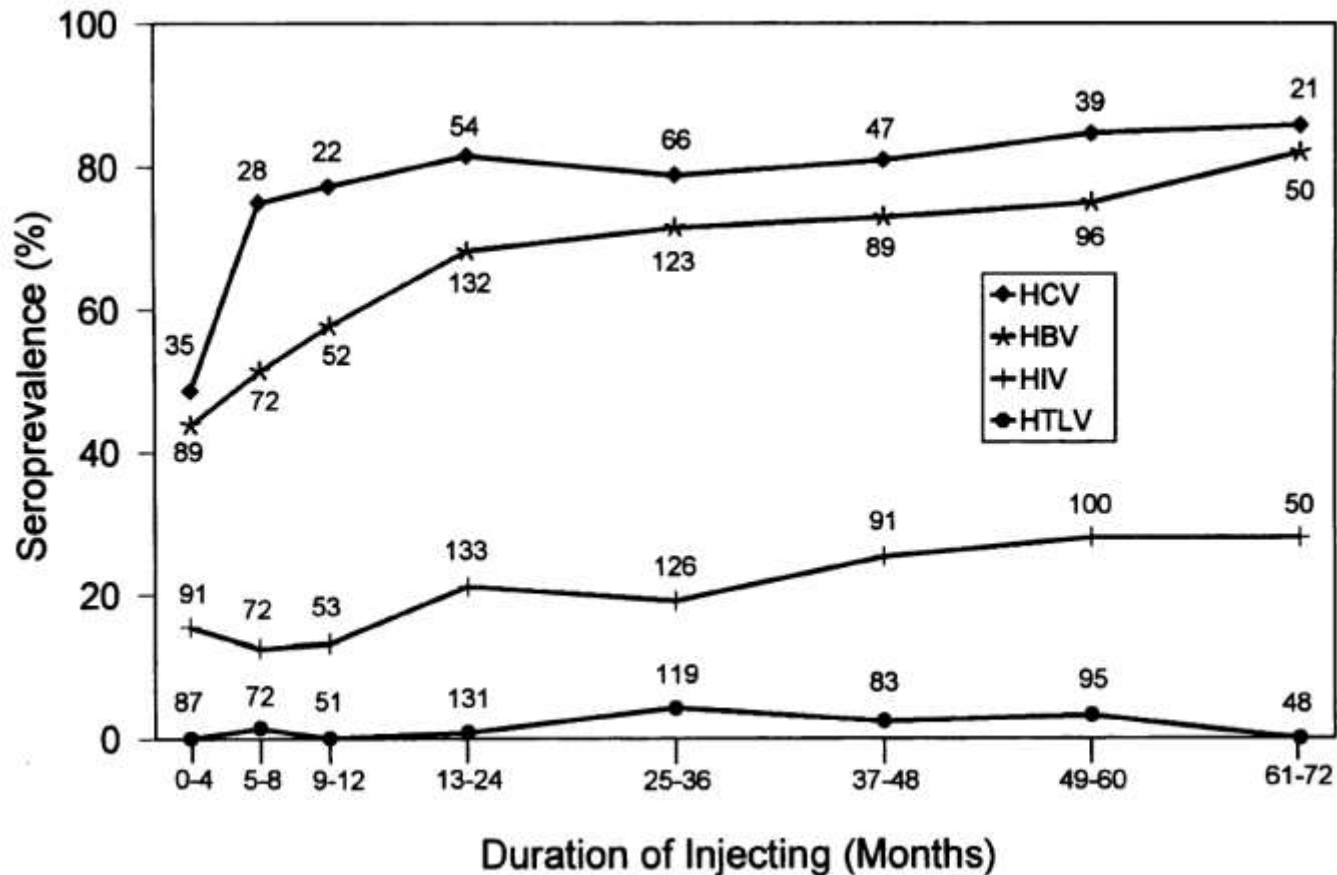
Morbidity data Lambeth Southwark and

Lewisham homeless service

2012 - 2013 – 1422 clients	Coded data	National studies
Alcohol dependent	47.6%	
Drug dependent	43.5%	52%
Alcohol or drug dependent	57.9%	
Diagnosed mental health problem	44.2%	70% (estimated prevalence) 80% (self reported)
Smoker	68.3%	77%
COPD	15.7%	82% report current physical health problems 56% report at least 1 chronic physical health diagnosis
Hepatitis C	12.6%	
Hypertension	13%	
HIV	1.6%	
TB	1.5%	
		20% have 3 chronic

Force of infection

'The steep trajectory in seroprevalence of HCV and HBV within the first year suggests that most new infections occurred very soon after initiation of injection drug use.'



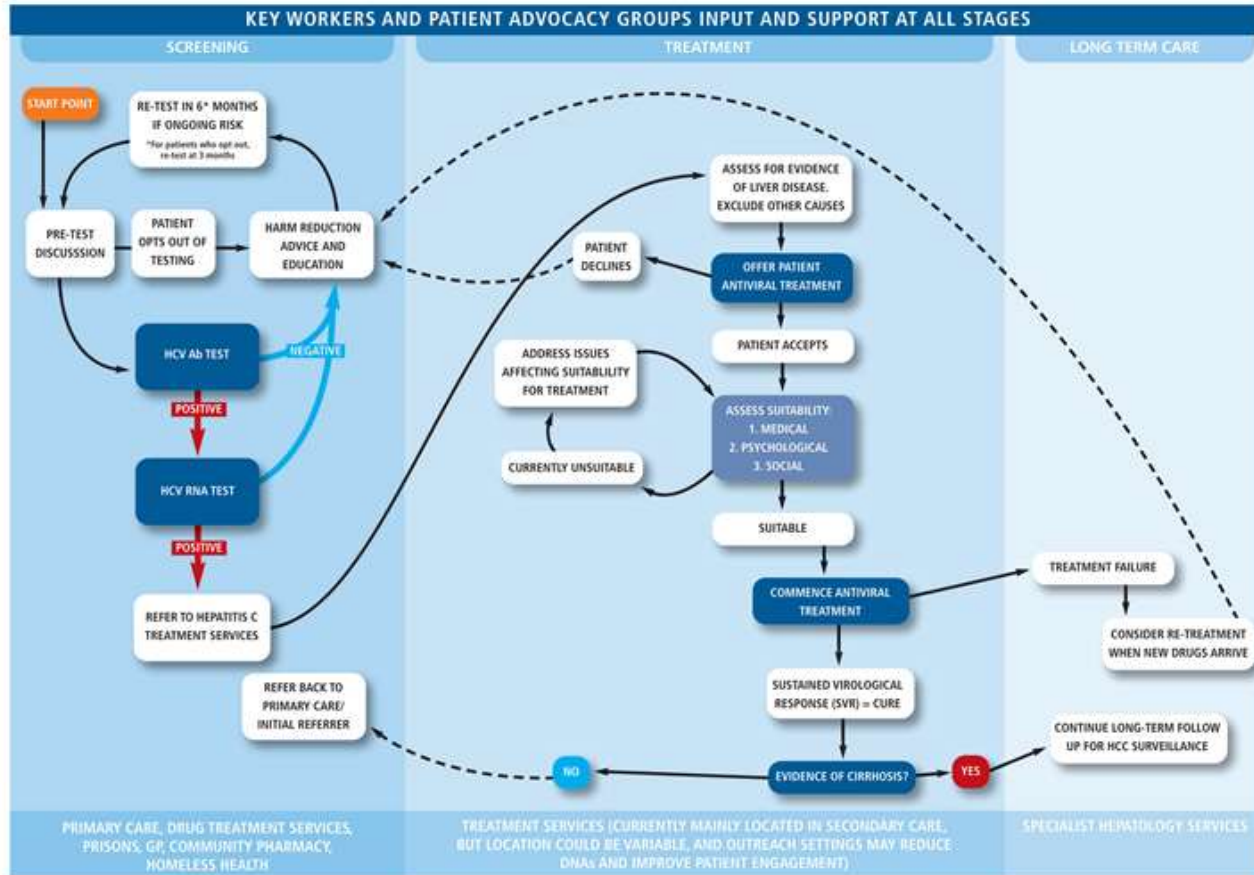
What needs to be done

- Prevention of new infections
- Increasing awareness of infection
- Increasing testing and diagnosis
- Getting diagnosed individuals into treatment and care

Barriers

- Existing systems, not enough investment in hep C prevention, diagnosis and treatment services
- Largely determined locally - financial concerns, other priorities.
- Who pays for what NHSE, CCG's, Local Authorities
- Cost of new treatments
- Stigma
- Hard to access services
- Myths

LJWG Hepatitis C Pathway



Solutions

- New treatments
- Policy action
- OST, needle exchanges, community mobilisation, recovery
- Pathway and system improvement
- Hep C treatment services need to be re-structured country-wide so they are accessible to all those who need them
- Prevention - awareness (clinical and community)
- Active case finding
- Funding streams
- Prison into community



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Elimination of hepatitis C- related liver disease as a serious public health concern in England..? Yes but challenging.

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