Nurse-led Hepatitis B clinic in the community

Hepatitis B (HBV) is a **blood borne virus** which can cause progressive liver damage, often leading to **cirrhosis**. Approximately **325,000 people** are **infected within the UK**. HBV is known to be under-diagnosed so testing is recommended as it is often initially **symptomless**, yet significant liver damage can still occur and the virus is still highly contagious. King’s College Hospital’s (KCH) local boroughs are Lambeth and Southwark, where up to 20% of people are from countries in the regions of Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa with more than 8% incidence of Hepatitis B.

**Project lead:**
Teresa Bowyer, Viral Hepatitis Nurse, London

**Project aim:**
To develop a specialist, nurse led GP practice based specialist viral hepatitis service within Lambeth/Southwark

**Outputs:**
- Information posters to advertise the new service of testing for Viral Hepatitis
- Operational Guide outlining the agreed processes of the clinics
- Clinics in Southwark and Lambeth

**Outcomes:**
- nurse-led service set up in 2 GP practices
- good working relationships developed with GP practice teams
- one GP practice keen to work with Viral Hepatitis Service on further initiatives
- South London Clinical Commissioning Group is now considering a new community based Viral Hepatitis Nurse role
- % of patients rating their care as ‘very good’ was increased from **78%** to **86%**
- of those seen at their GP practice as part of the QNI project, **93%** wanted to continue being seen there by the specialist nurse

‘GP practice was closer so was able to be on time without problems with public transport or place to park my car’

‘No comment at all, everything is excellent!’

‘I can relate to nurses at the GP practice better considering it’s not as busy as King’s Hospital itself.’