An audit of hepatitis C services in prisons

Clare Humphreys
Consultant in Health Protection
Public Health England
Clare.humphreys@phe.gov.uk
Acknowledgements

Hepatitis C Audit working group


Dr Éamonn O’Moore, National Lead for Health & Justice, Public Health England & Director of the UK Collaborating Centre for WHO Health in Prisons (European Region).

Dr Autilia Newton, Consultant in Communicable Disease Control (CCDC) Public Health England, WHO Technical Advisor to Sierra Leone CMO on Public Health Preparedness & Resilience

Professor Martin Lombard, Consultant Hepatologist & Gastroenterologist, Royal Liverpool University Hospital, Prescot Street, Liverpool, England, (previously Clinical Director for Liver Disease)

Emma Dapaah, Health Protection Nurse Specialist, Public Health England

Gary Hemphill, Peer to Peer Educator, The Hepatitis C Trust

Joanne Noble, Nurse, HMP Manchester

Robert Downs, Deputy Healthcare Manager, HMP Manchester

Susanne Howes, Health and Justice Public Health Specialist, Public Health England

& Maciej Czachorowski, PhD, Epidemiology Scientist, Health and Justice Team, Public Health England

& 21 prisons involved in the audit
English and Welsh prison estate

- 84,868 prisoners (81,024 male; 3,844 female)\(^1\)
- 120 prisons (including 14 privately run prisons)
- Health care (including drugs and alcohol services) in prisons commissioned by NHS England using different providers

1. Ministry of Justice prison population on 26.2.16
Hepatitis C services in prison

- In England about half of PWID are HCV positive.¹
- 68% of newly sentenced adult prisoners had used an illicit drug in the past year.²
- 40% had injected a drug in the 4 week period prior to custody.²
- Approx 3% of those in the general population in England with chronic HCV infection are treated per year (2006-11).³
- Prisons were identified as a specific setting in which HCV testing and treatment should be delivered.⁴
- Prison Health Performance Quality Indicators now replaced by Health and Justice Indicators of Performance – a tool for commissioners
- Survey of prisons carried out in 2011 revealed great variation across the prison estate in England and Wales in the provision of HCV services.⁵

3. Harris R J et al, 2014
4. Department of Health, 2002

HCV – Hepatitis C Virus
PWID – people who inject drugs.
Prison BBV Health
Promotion Materials

You can prevent BBV's. Ask at Healthcare

Condoms
Disinfectant Tablets
Vaccination

You may not know if you're infected but you can be tested for BBVs in prison. Don't pass them on to others, inside or outside!

You can be treated in here and back home.

Remember BBVs are spread by infected blood or body fluids.

Hepatitis B
Hepatitis C
HIV

Hepatitis B attacks your liver.
Hepatitis C attacks your liver.
HIV weakens your body being able to fight infections.

You may have heard of them...

Blood-borne viruses are bad bugs spread through blood and body fluids.

Hepatitis B

Like you, they're inside. But keep them outside of you!

Get out of jail BBV-free! Here's how...

Hepatitis C

NHS

BBV - Blood Borne Virus

PLAY SAFE
- Always use a condom
- Use plenty of lube

KEEP IT CLEAN
- Use sterile equipment
- Bleach or disinfectant tablets can help if you have to reuse - clean before and after

DON'T SHARE
- Needles or works
- Piercing or tattoo equipment
- Razors, clippers, even toothbrushes

GET TESTED AND GET YOUR HEP B JABS - ASK A NURSE TODAY

For help and information

British Liver Trust free helpline: 0800 652 7330
www.britishlivertrust.org.uk

2 Southampton Road Ringwood BH24 1HY

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British Liver Trust

NHS
Audit aims

• To compare HCV services in a representative sample of English prisons against national best practice standards.

• Provide objective evidence and intelligence for commissioners and service providers to assist in the development and delivery of high quality HCV services.

• Identify areas of good practice which can then be shared across the prison estate using the information from the audit.
Audit process

August 2012

- Literature review of the national guidance for HCV testing, treatment and management
- Audit tool developed based on best practice
- Audit tool reviewed by working group
- Audit tool piloted with one prison
- Audit tool finalised
- Audit tool disseminated to 21 prisons (17% of prison estate in England)
- Audit responses and related submitted documents collated, reviewed and written up
- Audit published

May 2013

- Expert group convened by Hepatitis C Trust – implementation of findings
## Summary of a selection of audit results

**Public Health England**

**Viral Hepatitis Programme Board 10-11 March 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service delivery</th>
<th>Number of Prisons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Continuous care of patients on BBVs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal contact with Prison Healthcare team when transferred</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>On release prison contacts local service providers or GP</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Prisoner always placed on medical hold once treatment commenced</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychosocial support available</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Prison GP lead</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hospital in-reach</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hospital outpatients</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Samples automatically tested for RNA if Ab positive</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venous blood test available</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Carried out by prison healthcare services</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Carried out by drug treatment services</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Carried out by Geriatric Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Testing offered</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Disinfectant tablets available</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>BBV information available at reception</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Posters</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>DVDs</td>
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<td>Leaflets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Records testing or treatment data</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Has a policy</td>
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<td>Has a clinical team</td>
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<td>Has a clinical lead</td>
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<td>Has a steering group</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Number of Prisons**

0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21
Main findings/recommendations

- There should be:
  - A written policy covering the key areas of testing, treatment and care;
  - Testing offered to all prisoners along with other BBV particularly targeting high risk groups;
  - Adequate training in place of healthcare, substance misuse services and prison staff;
  - Adequate psychosocial support;
- Where possible treatment of HCV should be in house and if not practical clear pathways should be in place to access hospital services.
- Improvement in data collection is needed to inform commissioning of services.
Where we are now

- In October 2013 a National Partnership Agreement was finalised between Public Health England (PHE), NHS England and National Offender Management Service (NOMS) which included implementation of opt out testing for BBVs (hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV) among consenting adults in prisons in England in a phased process.

- This is also recommended by the Hepatitis C Trust, British Liver Trust and National AIDS Trust to improve the rates at which prisoners are tested for BBVs.

- In an opt-out programme, appropriately trained healthcare staff offer all prisoners entering prison the option of BBV blood tests near reception, and at several points thereafter.

- Those patients testing positive for HBV, HCV or HIV should then be able to access care and treatment pathways both within prison and on release.

- At the same time the prisoner will be offered a super-accelerated HBV course of vaccination.

- This opt-out model works in antenatal services in the community where both the offer and uptake of HIV testing has improved using this ‘opt-out’ method.

- More information on BBV opt out testing in prisons can be found here: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/improving-testing-rates-for-blood-borne-viruses-in-prisons-and-other-secure-settings
BBV Opt-Out Testing in Prisons: Update

- 21 pathfinder prisons implemented the policy by the end of May 2015

- In the pathfinder prisons evaluated (11 prisons):
  - Testing increased in new receptions from 11% to 21% after introducing opt out testing (n=9);
  - The numbers referred for treatment increased from 19 to 31 per month (n=8).
  - This is the early stages of the evaluation more results will follow.

- Plans to roll BBV opt out testing across the whole prison estate by the end of March 2017.

- Main challenges: robust referral pathway; ensuring all staff understand their role in the process; relatively low numbers still placed on treatment; continuity of care on release.
References and resources


References and Resources cont.


