

HEALTH PREVENION DELEGATE : VISITING GENERAL PRACTITIONERS AND PHARMACISTS IN THE PYRENEES ATLANTIQUES AREA (FRANCE)

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Background : In 2014, about 200 000 individuals were diagnosed HCV positive and an estimated 74 000 individuals were undiagnosed for chronic HCV infection in France. In May 2016, France has provided universal access to HCV treatments and obtained treatments price reductions. In France, most cases of use disorders are treated in private practice by general practitioners and pharmacists, that have a very important role in screening and treating or guiding individuals towards the specialized care system.

Description of model of care / intervention : The Health Prevention Delegate aims at visiting every general practitioner and pharmacist of the Pyrénées Atlantiques and South of Landes Area (about 880 000 inhabitants) at their office to give them information on drug use, addictions, harm reduction and also infectious diseases linked to drug use. It has been set up in the area in 2014 to support GP and pharmacists. In 2017, a special focus was made on HCV screening and treating. The delegate gave specific information on HCV and its treatment to every professional met.

Effectiveness : Since 2014, 996 visits have been done (449 in GP's offices, 386 in pharmacies and 181 in other professionals, mainly specialist practitioners, nurses, psychologists). Visit duration was between 10 minutes and 1 hour. Visits were very well accepted by professionals.

Conclusion and next steps : Face to face visits to key professionals can be a precious tool to reach them and to promote HCV screening among their patients. Health prevention visits have been developed to the whole Nouvelle Aquitaine Area and it would be very important and relevant to implement those visits in the whole country, especially now that DAA prescription will be given to GP.

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