

Integrating Hepatitis C care for at risk groups: Findings from a Multi-centre Observational Study in Primary and Community Care

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Background

- Primary care increasingly providing long-term care for PWID
- Though HCV is common among PWID attending primary care few have been treated
- Barriers to HCV care in this population are well understood



Aims

👉 The HepLink study aims to improve HCV care outcomes among PWID, by:

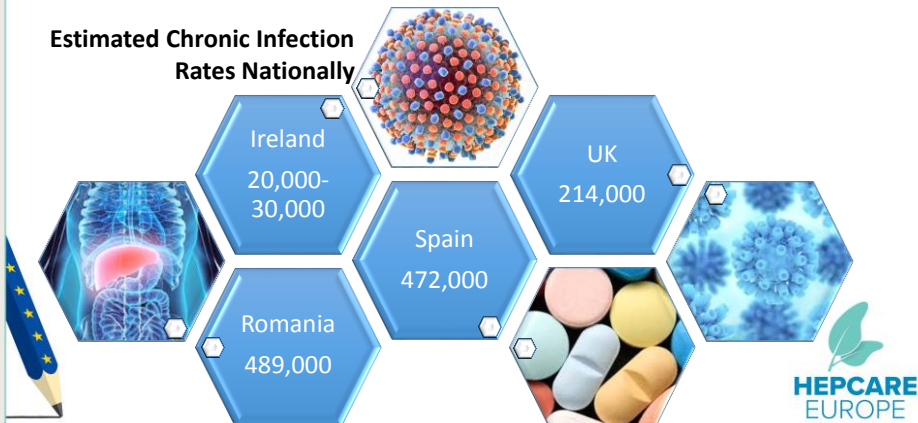
- developing an integrated model of HCV care
- evaluating its feasibility, acceptability and likely efficacy among PWID attending at four primary care / community-based sites



Methods

👉 Primary and community care sites in **Dublin, London, Bucharest** and **Seville** were recruited from the professional networks of consortium members

Estimated Chronic Infection Rates Nationally



Methods

Patients were eligible if:

- ≥ 18 years of age
- on OST or at risk of HCV
- attend the practice or service during the recruitment period

Data on patient demographics and current HCV management were collected on participating patients at baseline



Results

Key project deliverables:

Deliverable	DUB	LDN	BUC	SEV	TOTAL	TARGET
No. of primary care/ community sites recruited	14	2	9	4	29	24
No. of patients recruited	135	35	215	109	494	240
No. of patients on whom baseline data has been collected	135	35	215	96	481	240

DUB: Dublin; LDN: London; BUC: Bucharest; SEV: Seville



Results

	Dublin	London	Bucharest	Seville	Total
VARIABLE	% (n)	% (n)	% (n)	% (n)	(%)
HCV Antibody Tested	95% (128)	94% (33)	63% (135)	91% (87)	80%
HCV Antibody Positive/Tested	78% (100)	94% (31)	96% (129)	100% (87)	91%



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Results

	Dublin N = 100	London N = 31	Bucharest N = 129	Seville N=87	Total N=347
VARIABLE	%(n)	%(n)	%(n)	%(n)	(%)
HCV RNA tested	58% (58)	87% (27)	13% (17)	n/a	39%
Referred to Hepatology/ Infectious Disease service	71% (71)	55% (17)	41% (53)	n/a	54%
Attended Hepatology/ Infectious disease service	53% (53)	6% (2)	37% (48)	n/a	40%
HCV treatment initiated	20% (20)	3% (1)	11% (14)	34% (30)	19%
HCV treatment completed	14% (14)	3% (1)	8% (10)	26% (23)	14%
Sustained virologic response attained	14% (14)	3% (1)	2% (3)	n/a	7%



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HepLink Model of Care



Conclusions

- Substantial variability in HCV screening, linkage to care and treatment rates among PWID.
- Our research will determine the feasibility and acceptability of the HepLink model of care to engage and retain PWID in the cascade of HCV care.
- The intervention is scalable and, therefore, if found to be feasible, acceptable, and cost effective can be readily implemented elsewhere and used to guide policy and service development internationally.



Acknowledgements

- Participating GPs and patients
- Co-funded by European Commission through its EU Third Health Programme and Ireland's Health Services Executive
- Our partners: UCL, U Bristol, SVB Bucharest, SAS Seville

Website: <http://www.ucd.ie/medicine/hepcare/>



Co-funded by
the Health Programme
of the European Union

