

RE-ENGAGEMENT OF CLIENTS WITH HEPATITIS C ATTENDING A SUBSTANCE MISUSE SERVICE FOLLOWING AN EDUCATION DAY TO COMMUNITY PSYCHIATRIC NURSES (CPNs)

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Background:

Following the introduction of new treatment regimes in 2015, NHS Grampian's Hepatology team sought to re-engage Hepatitis C positive patients with specialist services. The team conducted an education day at a Substance Misuse Service (SMS) to empower CPNs to test for Blood Borne Viruses (BBVs) and to re-engage patients with specialist services.

Methods:

Analysis of a cohort of clients attending SMS. Hospital systems were used to obtain BBV and follow-up status. The education day highlighted newer treatment regimens and identified clients who had been lost to follow up or never attended specialist services.

Results:

There were 365 clients registered with SMS during the study period, with an average age of 37 (22-76) and 61% were male. In total, 302 (83%) of the 365 clients having been tested for HCV, 105 (35%) were HCV antibody positive and 313 (86%) had been tested for HBV & HIV.

Of the 105 (35%) HCV antibody positive clients, 58 (55%) were HCV PCR negative, 4 (4%) had an unknown PCR status and 43 (41%) were HCV PCR positive. Prior to the education day, 26 (60%) of those with active infection had been lost to follow-up or never attended specialist services and 17 (40%) were under continued follow-up, which included 4 (9%) of clients on the treatment waiting list. After the education day, 13 (30%) remained lost to follow-up or never attended, 1 client had been discharged following spontaneous viral clearance, the remaining 29 (68%) were under continued follow-up, 14 (33%) of whom were on the waiting list for treatment.

Conclusion:

In this cohort of SMS clients, only 63 (17%) clients had never been tested for HCV, which represents a good success rate for BBV testing. Since the education day, 50% of those who were lost to follow-up have been re-engaged with specialist services.