



EASTERN LIVER NETWORK

Eastern Region Hepatitis C Operational Delivery Network GP PSI Tool Initiative to Eliminate Hepatitis C Virus

The World Health Organisation has a global target to eliminate Hepatitis C (HCV) by 2030. NHS England have pledged to eliminate HCV in the UK by 2025. As part of that pledge 22 Operational Delivery Networks (ODN) were established nationwide in 2016. Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Trust (CUH) is the hub for the Eastern Region HCV ODN. We work with six spoke sites based at Basildon, Bedford, Ipswich, Luton and Dunstable, Norfolk and Norwich and Peterborough hospitals.

New direct acting anti-viral drugs (DAAs) are available to treat HCV with treatment courses varying between eight and 12 weeks duration. There is a 95% cure rate with the DAAs. Treatment is free. Patients report few or no side effects. Novel approaches to delivering HCV treatment has seen close collaboration working with Drug and Alcohol Services and prisons across the region.

Merck Sharp & Dohme (MSD) have developed a GP PSI tool that will run on EMIS, TPP SystemOne and INPS Vision. This tool will look for coded risk factors in patients who may be at risk of HCV infection and who may not have been tested for HCV in the past. HCV antibody testing can now be performed with an oral swab with results available in 30 minutes. Further HCV RNA testing can be performed via a venous sample or via a Dry Blood Spot Test (DBST) with results available in 14 days.

We are looking for GP practices who would be interested in taking part in this elimination initiative. For further details please contact the HCV ODN team via add-tr.hepatitis@nhs.net or via telephone to Wendy Smeeton, HCV ODN Co-ordinator on 01223 586614. For further information about the Eastern Region HCV ODN please see www.easternliver.net.