

Eliminating Hepatitis C in at risk groups - Achieving 100% testing in city centre opioid agonist therapy cohort and ensuring successful linkage to treatment

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Declarations

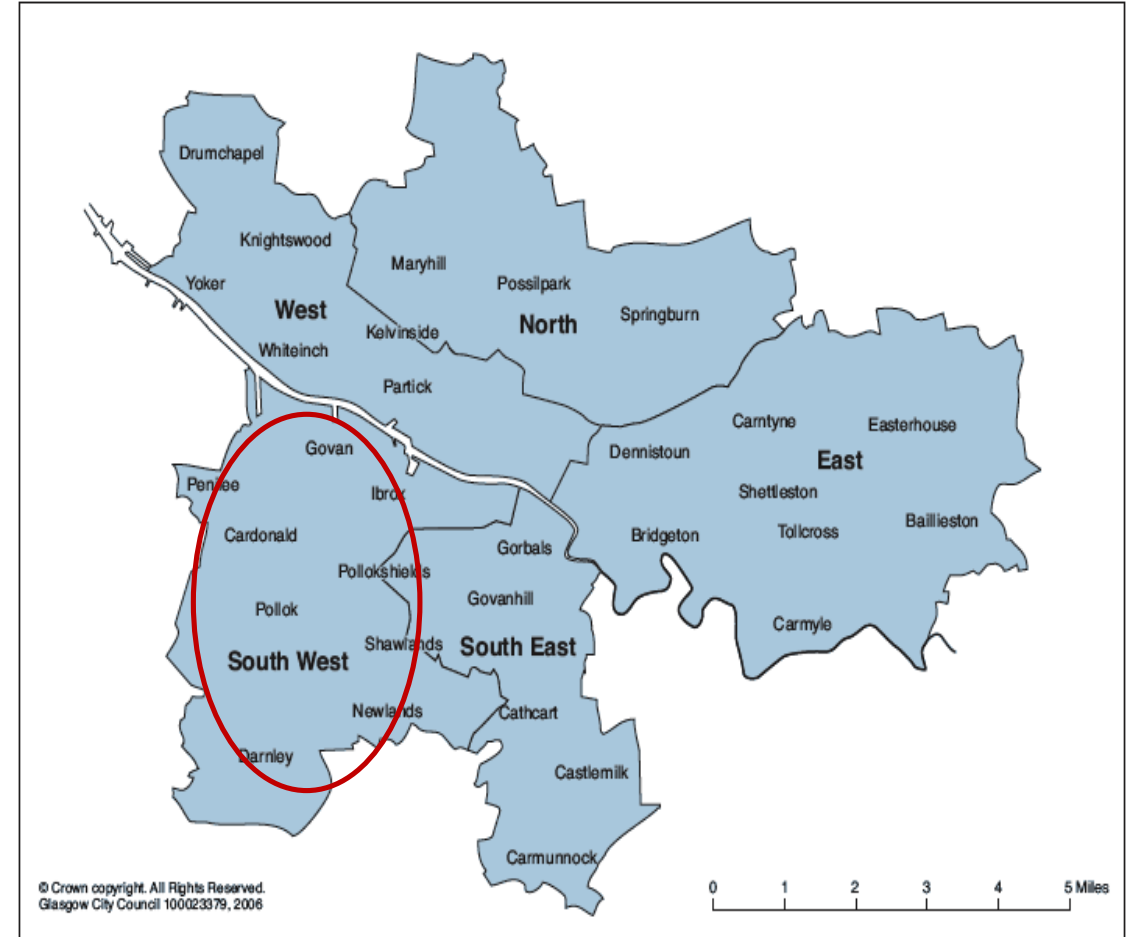
- No conflicts of interest

Background

- Scottish Government HCV elimination targets for 2024
- Targets in at-risk groups have been set nationally: 80% “tested in last year” and 90% “ever tested”

The project aims :

- Achieve HCV testing targets in a city centre drug treatment service
- Identify HCV+ve patients engaged with opioid agonist treatment (OAT) and link with HCV treatment services
- Optimise testing of all new patients/transferred patients at first contact
- Incorporate HIV testing as routine part of blood borne virus (BBV) screen



Method: Case finding

- Identify HCV champion
- Audit of clinical systems to identify patients
- Staff training
- “Opt-out” testing - **regardless of patient’s perceived risk level**
- Dry blood spot tests
- Testing on treatment initiation, quarterly reviews or transfer
- Results at next appointment
- Patients given choice of treatment setting

Results: Case finding

	Baseline 2017-18	2018 - 2019
Patients on OAT	240	250
Untested >12 months	64 (27%)	0 (0%)
New HCV diagnosis	3	14
New HIV diagnosis	0	2

- 100% patients agreed to opt-out BBV test
- 14 new diagnoses of HCV in the testing period
 - 9/14 (64%) had no record of a previous test
 - 1/14 (7%) F4 fibrosis and 1/14 (7%) F2 fibrosis
- Importance of 3 monthly testing of those with ongoing IV risk

Method: Treatment

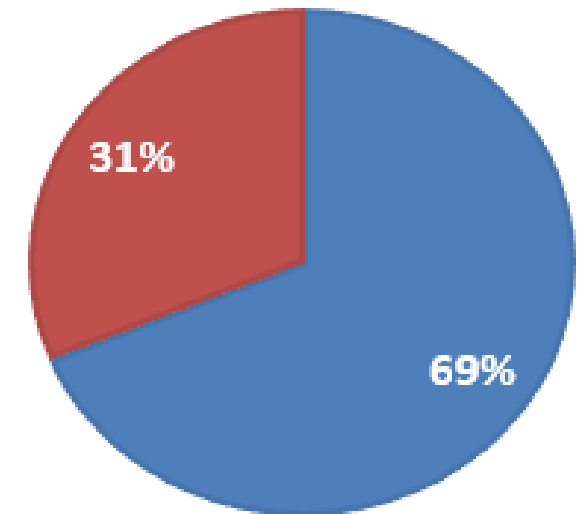
- Outreach HCV clinic integrated with community OAT clinic
- Range of interventions available:
 - Venous bloods taken to confirm status and genotype
 - OAT assessment and treatment
 - Harm reduction interventions: needle replacement, foil, naloxone, condoms
 - Fibroscan, physical health assessment
 - Treatment discussion
- Gastroenterology multidisciplinary meeting
- Telephone pre-treatment counselling by specialist liver nurse
- DAA's supervised daily with OAT
- Clinic staff provide ongoing telephone support
- Sustained viral response (SVR) – 12 & 24 weeks

Results: Treatment

	June 2017 - Aug 2019
Currently on or completed HCV treatment	57
Assessed waiting to start HCV treatment	7
Awaiting assessment	0

- 100% of OAT patients were tested for HCV during Jun 2018 – Aug 2019
- 64 HCV+ patients assessed and/or treated (approx. 25% of caseload)
- 53 (83%) male : 11(17%) female

PATIENTS' CHOICE OF TREATMENT SETTING
 ■ Outreach ■ Hospital



Key drivers to HCV identification and elimination

- Identify “HCV Champion”
- Opt out testing
- Multidisciplinary team working
- Accessible outreach clinic
- No treatment barriers
- Positive discussions from all staff members

Patient Quotes

“I thought I would just die with it, can’t believe it’s treated and was so easy”

“I still don’t know where I got it from as I’ve never used IV, so thankful I got tested and treated”

“Never thought I’d get treated as I still drink and use drugs”

Acknowledgements

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