

Hepatitis C Testing in the Community – meeting people where they are

HEP C U Later

In late September and early October 2023 Hep C U Later were privileged to be involved in collaborative testing events at the Medina Mosque and Singh Sabah Gurdawara in Southampton.



How were the events implemented?

Hep C U Later and the Wessex Operational Delivery Network were approached by Shabana Begum, the South Asian Project Coordinator at The Hepatitis C Trust to support in an event funded by MSD, set up to spread awareness of Hepatitis C and to bring testing to people in the community. The Hepatitis C Trust's South Asian Project delivers sessions in the South Asian communities, raises awareness and promotes testing within Mosques/Hindu Temples & Sikh Gurdawars.

Louise Hansford from Hep C U Later advised who to contact in the local community, Shabana Begum approached these areas and planning meetings were set up ensuring a joined up approach for the events. Importantly, materials which detailed the risk factors associated with hepatitis C transmission were translated into Punjabi and displayed on posters by The Hepatitis C Trust, ensuring a link to the national testing portal was available should some individuals not want to be tested at the event.



Find out more about hepatitis C:
www.hepctrust.org.uk
Or call our helpline
020 7089 6221

(Hepatitis C) Born/visited South Asia and involved in the following:

ਹੀਪਟੇਟਸ ਸੀ —ਜਨਮ ਹੋਇਆ ਜਾਂ ਦੋਖਣਾ ਏਸੀਆ ਦੇਸ਼ਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਗਏ ਹੋਏ

ਡੂਹਾਡਾ ਇਹਨਾਂ ਨਾਲ ਵਾਸਤਾ ਪਿਆ

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| • Operations | ਚੁਪਰੇਸਨ |
| • Dentist Treatment | ਦੰਦਾਂ ਦੀ ਟਾਰੀਟਮੈਂਟ |
| • Circumcision | ਸੁੰਨਤ |
| • Child's First Head Shave | ਬੱਚੇ ਦਾ ਪਹਿਲਾ ਮੁਨੰਦ |
| • Tooth Brush | ਦੰਦਾਂ ਦਾ ਬੁਰਸ਼ ਜਾਂ ਸੇਵ ਬਲੇਡ ਸਾਂਝਾ ਕੀਤਾ |
| • Contact with Contaminated Blood | ਦੁਸ਼ਿਤ ਖੂਨ ਨੂੰ ਹੱਥ ਲਾਇਆ |
| • Blood Transfusion | ਖੂਨ ਚੜਾਇਆ ਹੋਵੇ |
| • Tattoo | ਟੈਟੂ ਬਨਾਏ |
| • Ear or Nose Piercing | ਕੰਨ ਜਾਂ ਨੱਕ ਬਿਨਿਆ ਹੋਵੇ |
| • Dirty Syringe | ਟੀਕਾ ਜਾਂ ਮੈਡੀਕਲ ਸਮਾਨ ਸਾਂਝਾ ਕੀਤਾ |
| • Illicit Drugs | ਨਾਜਾਇਜ਼ ਨਸ਼ੇ |
| • Barber (Razor, Potash, Scissors) | ਨਾਈਆਂ ਦੇ ਬਲੇਡ, ਫਟਕਰੀ ਜਾਂ ਕੱਚੀ ਲਵਾਈ ਹੋਵੇ |



The Hepatitis C Trust is a registered charity England and Wales, 1104279 Scotland SC039914

www.understandhepbands.org

Do you show all the signs of hepatitis?

ਕੀ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਹੀਪਟੇਟਸ ਦੀਆਂ ਨਿਸ਼ਾਨੀਆਂ ਦਿਸਦੀਆਂ

Hepatitis C can cause fatal liver disease with no obvious symptoms

Healthy liver

Hepatitis C liver

ਹੀਪਟੇਟਸ ਸੀ ਘਾਤਕ ਹੋ ਸਕਦਾ ਲਿਵਰ ਖਰਾਬ ਹੈ ਪਰ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਪਤਾ ਨਹੀਂ ਲੱਗਦਾ

For advice on hepatitis C, contact the confidential Hepatitis C Trust helpline

FREE HEPATITIS C TESTING

@ Singh Sabha Gurdwara Cranbury Avenue SO14 0LR

on 1st October 2023 10am till 2pm

ਹੀਪਟੇਟਸ ਸੀ ਵਾਰੇ ਜਾਨਣ ਲਈ ਟੈਸਟ ਦੀ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਲਾਈਨ ਤੇ ਫੂਨ ਕਰੋ ਆਪ ਦੀ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਸੁਰਿਅਖਤ ਰਿਹਵੇਗੀ

Get tested Get treated

ਆਪ ਚੈੱਕ ਕਰਾਵੇ ਤੇ ਇਲਾਜ ਕਰਾਵੇ



www.hepctrust.org.uk
Helpline: 020 7089 6221

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How did the events work?

The Hep C U Later team supported with the Wessex Clinical Van, allowing a space for confidential discussions and further investigations. The Wessex ODN nurses also brought a FibroScan machine, allowing for a full holistic package of care for people who needed it. The staff set up testing stations and staff from every organisation got involved in the testing. Hepatitis C antibody swabs were used and the Cepheid GeneXpert machine was on hand to test anyone for hepatitis C RNA should their swab return a positive result.

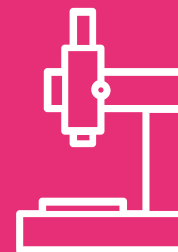
“One of the additional values of doing this testing event was that people from the community could see inside the van, to see how it worked, and better understand the resources that are available. It was great to see the community genuinely interested in understanding the work going on in the region around hepatitis C elimination.”

Louise Hansford, Hepatitis C Elimination Coordinator, Hep C U Later (email to Parmjit K Bassi)



What were the results?

At the first event in the Medina Mosque 122 people were engaged in testing (106 men and 16 women), and 15 people declined to have a test. At the second event at the Sikh Singh Sabah Gurdawara temple 67 people were tested (31 men and 36 women) and no one declined a test. There were no positive test results at either event, but there were lots of discussions about preventing the transmission of hepatitis C.





“You and your team were very welcoming and approachable which showed in the number of people from the congregation coming to be tested, we feel it was a successful visit and many people did speak to me about the health awareness issue you brought to our attention.

Your set up was a success and you were kind and considerate when testing and talking to people. We would welcome another visit from you in the future and support you in bringing awareness of the risks of Hepatitis to people.”

**Parmjit K Bassi, General Secretary Singh Sabha Gurdwara, Southampton
(email to Shabana Begum)**



What was the learning?

Firstly, the events were a great way to engage with the community, outside of healthcare services. The events showed that people within the community were very open to receiving information about hepatitis C and were very engaged. Additional learning was that cross-provider planning was essential as on one particular day it became very busy within 30 minutes. Having the ability to speak other languages was essential and the translation of materials and resources into Punjabi helped the information to get to everyone.

“Developing information leaflets/materials in simple languages associated with the ethnic communities you are trying to engage with is essential. Most importantly you need someone from their ethnic background, they can associate & engage to their level of cultural understanding and get the message across. It makes the organisation approachable and most importantly helps to break down barriers.”

Shabana Begum, National South Asian Projects Coordinator, The Hepatitis C Trust



What will happen next?

Due to the positive engagement from the communities more events will now be planned with additional focus on liver health, not just hepatitis C. It was recognised that events such as these were excellent opportunities for joint working with other areas of health and social care to improve population health.

Hep C U Later would like to thank Shabana Begum for the invitation to support with these events and to every individual who collaborated.

