

# HEP C U Later

October 2021

## Quarterly Newsletter

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- A year in data
- World Hepatitis Day fibroscan story
- Introduction of Katy Bradbury
- Partnership with sexual health services
- Upcoming European Testing Week

Please let us know your thoughts, comments and suggestions for further newsletters.

- Hep C U Later is an initiative of the NHS Addictions Provider Alliance (NHS APA).

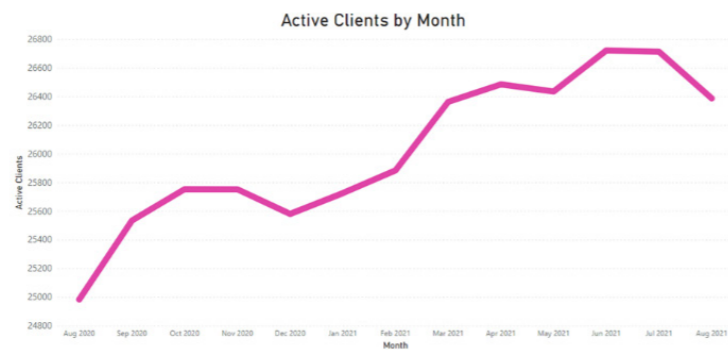


- The NHS APA is a collective of NHS addictions service providers who working collaboratively with service users, carers and other organisations and are committed to contributing positively to the on-going development of the addictions field including within drug and alcohol, gambling and gaming treatment.

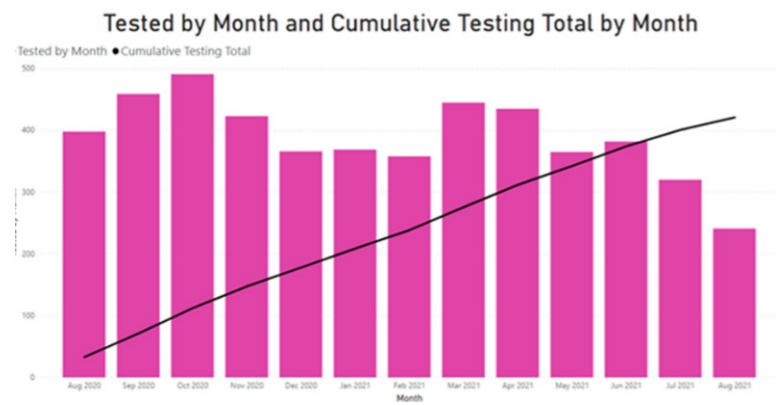
September 2021, marked an important milestone in the Hep C U Later data, the culmination of the first year's data submission from the 14 members of the NHS Addictions Providers Alliance (NHS APA).

Every month, our members submit a subset of data from their monthly National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) data submission. Our Hep C U Later Data Analyst, Rob Fair, then works his processing magic, turning the submission into malleable reports. These reports are then used in a variety of formats to aid Hep C Elimination across our networks.

Over the last 12 months the data has shown the effects of Covid with peaks and troughs within numbers of active patients in structured treatment, this trend follows the implementation and removal of lockdown restrictions. There is slight drop in active patients from June to August of 335 (13%) due to one of our services transferring to a new provider.

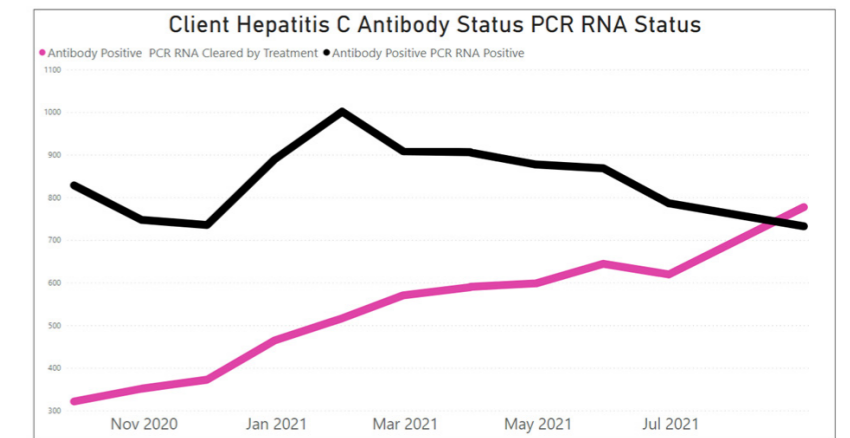


Looking at the testing data for the last year, our testing rates have followed the national changes in lockdown during the pandemic. It is to our provider's credit and their robust partnership working with organisations like The Hep C Trust that despite lockdowns, testing has still been taking place. Testing numbers are shown in pink and the black trend line shows the cumulative tests done over the 12 months of the project resulting in **4441 patients being tested**.



During the last 12 months we have been working closely with all NHS APA members to analyse and improve their data quality around hep C. With this we have used the data to help members identify patients who have not yet been tested and those who have tested hep C positive but not yet had their treatment. The Hep C U Later regional coordinators have supported the development of individual Hep C Elimination Action Plans to enable the services to complete targeted and time bound work.

This diagram shows both how well the Hep C U Later project is doing in eliminating hep C and the effectiveness of the Deep Data Dive work we have been doing across the NHS APA. The pink line shows the number of patients who are hep C antibody positive and PCR negative - cleared by treatment. This is our measure of accomplishment as these are the patients who have been successfully treated and are living free from hep C.



The black line illustrates the effectiveness of our Deep Data Dive as it helped identify those patients needing SVR bloods done. This work also highlighted data errors, including statuses of hep C Antibody Negative and PCR RNA positive, enabling coordinators to support enhanced data quality and identify training needs. The impact of our Deep Data Dive can be shown through the trends in Pink and Black lines illustrating enhanced data quality from March.

On World Hepatitis Day, our friends and partners over at the Ealing RISE Addiction service, were able to loan a fibroscan machine for their test and treat event and would like to tell you how it went.

“We were very fortunate on World Hepatitis Day to have on loan from Hounslow ARC Addiction services their Fibroscan machine and Shiv their recovery practitioner with it to conduct the scans on our clients.

It really was an exciting day all round and greatly embraced by the whole service staff and clients alike.

We managed to scan 12 clients, 25% of whom had an abnormal high score, 3 of whom required referral to hepatology.

Thanks to Shiv and Ron for devoting their time to us and our clients at RISE.

Even more exciting since then Ealing RISE with the support of our commissioner Clare Brighton have now secured our own Fibroscan machine. I cannot tell you the excitement that brought to the team when that news was announced.

This is just the news our service needed , the impact this will have on our service delivery in the best interest of our clients will be phenomenal and of paramount importance our ability to now scan, educate, prevent and instigate early treatment of liver disease can only be just amazing.

Next on the agenda being the training of clinical staff to use the Fibroscan machine.

We are all looking forward to this and to the setting up of Fibroscan clinics for our clients to access, long overdue but so welcomed”.



We would like to welcome Katy Bradbury as the new London Manager for our friends and partners over at the Hep C Trust, Katy has sent the below in to introduce herself to you all.

“Before Joining the Trust I have worked in substance misuse services for over 15 years. I went to university as a mature student and studied Psychology, thoroughly enjoying it and started as a volunteer with Blenheim, working in the drop in service. I have always been fascinated by human behaviour and concentrated on addiction and people’s capacity to change, for my degree. I was delighted to get a job as a group worker for a new service in Hillingdon, a day programme, and worked my way up to manager. The service was great, providing a safe, solid caring environment for people to start making healthy changes to their lives.

When I am not at work I like to upscale furniture, grow vegetables, although not very well and spend as much time as I can with my friends and family. I also like travel, the theatre and live comedy but haven’t been for ages and I cycle which I want to do more of. I’m studying to be a psychotherapist. Just enjoying the journey.

That is me in a nutshell”.



We are very excited to announce that we are now working with Inclusion’s sexual health services, Open Clinic and Leicester Sexual Health. Together with them we will be offering Hep C testing along with their usual sexual health testing services.

Please find more about their services at the addresses below:

<https://openclinic.org.uk>

<https://leicestersexualhealth.nhs.uk>

# Upcoming Awareness Week & Contacts

**European Testing Week** - <http://www.testingweek.eu>

European Testing Week is a European campaign that encourages partner organisations – in community, health care and policy institutions – throughout Europe to unite for one week twice a year to increase testing efforts and promote awareness on the benefits of earlier hepatitis and HIV testing. This initiative has progressed since its start in 2013 and has grown to be a widely recognised European event with hundreds of organisations participating every year. What once started as an annual event has now become a biannual event with two ETWs occurring each year in Spring (May) and Autumn (November). Each organisation volunteers their own time to organise their Testing Week activities and create incredible displays of a united effort to increase testing awareness at all organisational levels.

Now in its ninth year, the European Testing Week initiative holds its Autumn European Testing Week from 22 - 29 November 2021.

To find out more about Hep C U Later please visit us at [www.hepculater.com](http://www.hepculater.com) and follow us on social media  @HepC\_U\_Later  Hep C U Later

For general enquiries, please email us at [HepC.ULater@mpft.nhs.uk](mailto:HepC.ULater@mpft.nhs.uk)

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The work of the Hep C U Later co-ordinators is supported by a great team which includes **Candie Lincoln** (Project Manager), **Rob Fair** (Data Analyst), **Edward Taylor** (Marketing and Communications Assistant) and **Grace Masinuka** (Programmes and Communications Lead).