

Maintaining Hepatitis C Micro-Elimination - An interview with Hayley Curran (Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust)

**HEP C
U Later**

Brook Place, a drug and alcohol treatment service within Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust announced micro-elimination in early June 2023. Hep C U Later spoke to Hayley Curran from Brook Place about her experience of reaching the milestone of hepatitis C micro-elimination and what it has been like maintaining it.

What was it like getting to hepatitis C micro-elimination?

It was a great achievement for myself and the service becoming micro-eliminated in just over 1 year from me starting my role as champion lead for our service, and we have managed to maintain this for the past 6-7 months. I take a lot of pride in my work and what I do to help people, and although we see data and numbers, these are actual people we are helping before their health deteriorates. Re-educating people about hepatitis C is vital - how it spreads and can be treated so that they can pass this information onto friends and family, encouraging them to get tested.

What things did you do that were helpful to help you reach it?

Data cleansing was a massive part at the beginning, so we could identify the people that needed testing and treating. Once they were identified, we worked closely with the Cheshire and Merseyside Operational Delivery Network (ODN) team to provide 'drive days' in our service, offering incentive vouchers and support from the peers, helping to pick up/take home people and offering advice to individuals.



What have you had to do to maintain hepatitis C micro-elimination?

Working closely with Hep C U Later has helped us maintain micro-elimination as they send us dashboard information each month, identifying people that are due testing within the next 3 months and any that have flagged up as overdue/errors to be amended as appropriate. I check our appointment list daily and see who is due an antibody swab or dry blood spot test and test them, this a good way of keeping our yearly testing up to date. Maintaining the testing of hepatitis C is a continuous job, it involves constant checking, monitoring and communicating between services to ensure we are offering the correct testing to people.

What have some of your greatest challenges been?

I think the greatest challenge was trying to capture and engage people who were homeless (or residing in hostels) or those declining testing, but we adapted our ways of testing and joined up work and took this out to the ODN clinics in the hospital and community, tying in prescriptions to appointments with them which proved successful in engaging those last few.

Now that you have micro-eliminated what work are you focusing on?

We offer hepatitis C literature, re-education of hepatitis C, offer harm reduction advice and offer safe needle exchange cards to individuals. I still work closely with the ODN team and support in their clinics as and when needed.

We would like to say a special thank you to all of the individuals and teams who played a part in achieving micro-elimination at Brook Place for their commitment to this project.

