

National Learning Report:

Providing Hepatitis C Education to Universities

Introduction:

Hep C U Later is an NHS initiative commissioned by NHS England. A key aim of the Hep C U Later programme in 2024-2026 is to develop and deliver pilots and national learning reports aimed at widening awareness, testing, treatment or the prevention of hepatitis C in organisations which sit outside of drug and alcohol services.

The following report details the approaches used to engage with students on health and social care related university programmes.

Outline:

Due to the acknowledged level of stigma around hepatitis C, some of which has been reported as being from healthcare professionals it was deemed vital to reach health and social care professionals as early in their career as possible.

Hep C U Later recognised that this was best achieved through creating an educational offer for universities which provided basic hepatitis C knowledge, shared the national work on elimination and contained elements of discussion about stigma.

Implementation:

Initial scoping was completed with one university and through other programme leads engaged with at conferences Hep C U Later were exhibiting at.

It was recognised quickly that the needs of each programme might differ depending on the students programme, curriculum and length of time on the programme.

The first university which Hep C U Later worked alongside aimed to embed some very basic hepatitis C awareness training across their healthcare related programmes so a simple slide set was developed with the offer of students then completing the Hep C U Later CPD accredited training for further knowledge (**Hep-C-U-Later-Hepatitis-C-for-University-Programmes-6.7.24-v3-1.pptx**). The hepatitis C factsheet (**HCUL-Factsheet-updated-date-v2.pdf**) was also provided as a handout.

One university agreed to spread knowledge of hepatitis C even further through:



- Sharing the risks of hepatitis C and the link to the national hepatitis C online portal on student social media using our comms pack. Download it here: **Educational-posts-for-partners-v6-16.9.24-1.docx**
- Introducing Hep C U Later to local health and wellbeing related organisations (local faith hubs and wellbeing hubs)
- Sharing printed materials educating on the risks of transmission and linking to the online testing portal (posters, leaflets and discreet wallet sized cards) through the student union and wellbeing leads

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Implementation:

As a result of recognising the need for 'pick and mix' options a University Toolkit webpage (**University Toolkit - HEP C U Later**) was created for future universities to provide information, presentation slides, and social media options.

A clinical lead in another area met annually with GP trainees and was given a slide set to enable them to build in hepatitis C awareness into their already existing training delivery. Allowing others to deliver training on behalf of Hep C U Later gave a greater ability to reach more students in a shorter amount of time.

Another university had several programmes which engaged with Hep C U later through receiving bespoke training created for their specific needs:

- Nursing associate students – All students were directed to complete the CPD accredited training, they then received a follow up online training session (approximately 30).
- Adult field nursing BSc and MSc students – Had a bespoke online training session which provided hepatitis C awareness, information on stigma, and also focussed heavily on how to run a successful public health programme (taking learning from the Hep C U Later journey to apply to their own public health projects) (approximately 160).
- Midwifery students – Due to covering BBVs in earlier parts of their programme it was felt that a focus on stigma would benefit the students therefore, Hep C U Later provided a face to face service user experience session (approximately 40). At the time of writing antenatal specific CPD training and a handout is in the later stages of sign-off which will be sent to this programme as additional learning when ready.

What did the training cover?

The most basic training offer covered the following (however, bespoke messaging and other additional information was added depending on the programme being trained):

- Overview of hepatitis C prognosis, transmission, testing, treatment and prevention
- Differences between hepatitis C, B and HIV
- Overview of Hep C U Later and impact so far
- Overview of the global elimination strategy
- Overview of the national elimination programme successes and projects
- Hepatitis C and stigma with examples, and how hepatitis C is linked with health inequalities
- Resources available through Hep C U Later
- National Testing portal link
- Contact details

Following training being delivered an email was sent to each programme lead containing the presentation, links to resources and contact information.

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Outcomes:

Feedback from all students and programme leads was positive but written feedback was minimal. In hindsight greater efforts could have been made to gain feedback in real time such as during the training sessions. Work with universities in the future will increase efforts in gaining meaningful feedback to inform the offer.

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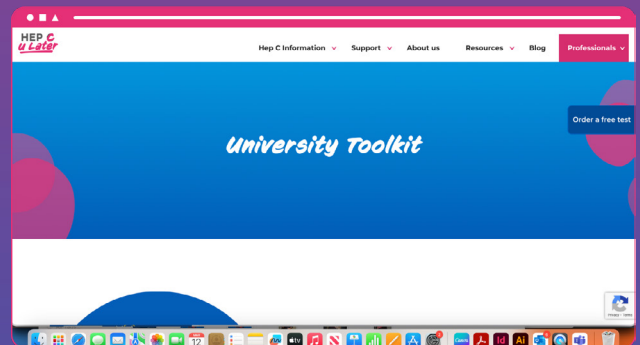
Students completed the Hep C U Later CPD Accredited Hepatitis C Awareness Training

230

Students received hepatitis C awareness training through one university

Since the University Toolkit Webpage was launched it has seen the following:

- 110 views
- 36 users
- 85 link clicks
- 48 resource downloads (from the resource links on the page)



So far Hep C U Later have not managed to engage with pharmacy students, however it is anticipated that the information presented would have to be aimed at the knowledge they are acquiring in their programme.

Feedback from student midwife on CPD training:

"I heard about the training from my university. I loved the layout and the interaction element of the training. I thought the colours were great and it was in an easy to read format that wasn't too text heavy. I have developed an understanding of Hep C and how to test for it and the reasons why which is important when seeing pregnant women as a midwife/ student."

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HEP C
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Learning

- **Mixed Methods** - If providing education to universities a mixed methods approach is key to meeting the differing needs of the students and allows for universities to build the learning into their already busy curriculum. Having a webpage with all information available means other organisations such as ODNs can signpost to it, and it offers greater credibility.
- **Additional Offer** - It is vital to build in additional offers such as social media squares, handouts and follow on learning.
- **Gaining Feedback** - In the future Hep C U Later will consider how better to gain feedback following the educational sessions, building it into the time the training occurs where possible.
- **Scalability** - Now the initial phase is completed Hep C U Later will scale up the offer and begin to engage universities further afield, it is felt that better engagement will be had if introductions can be made through organisations already working with Hep C U Later such as drug and alcohol services or NHS Trusts.



- **Stigma** - Hep C U Later will also feedback to the NHSAPA about the need to roll out a similar programme focused on drugs, alcohol and stigma within health and social care university programmes.
- **Medical Programmes** - For medical programmes consideration may need to be given to providing an increased level of evidence base and research.
- **Timescales** - Although once engaged with the programme leads were enthusiastic about building in hepatitis C education into the programmes they ran this did take time to organise, therefore anyone organising similar learning events needs to consider this may take many months to come to fruition.
- **Awareness Days** - Other services may want to consider linking the delivery of training events to international awareness days.
- **Achieving Spread** - Having readily available materials such as printed resources to distribute whilst on placements, 'copy and drop' social media posts and handouts is valuable for students spreading messages further afield. Equally it is worthwhile asking if universities know of any other local organisations who would benefit from the offer as they are well linked to local communities.

How do I find out more information?

- **Hep C U Later** - for queries and further resources & information (you can also email connect.HepCULater@mpft.nhs.uk)



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