Working with:





Running the Hepatitis C Search Tool in General Practice

Introduction

Thank you for your interest in running the hepatitis C search tool in your GP Practice.

Hepatitis C is a blood borne virus which can cause liver disease, liver cancer and death. Hepatitis C can now be cured with an 8-12 week course of Direct Acting Antiviral treatments (DAAs) with little or no side effects. The introduction of DAAs provides an opportunity to eliminate hepatitis C and the risks of liver disease and cancer caused by the virus. Symptoms of hepatitis C are non-specific and vague so can be easily missed. More information on Hep C for Primary Care teams can be found here: **General Practice - HEP C U Later**

It is estimated that around 55,000 people in England may still be unaware of having a hepatitis C infection and the majority (60%) are likely to be outside specialist services. Primary Care is the healthcare setting where we have the highest chance of finding people affected by hepatitis C.

How can we find these patients?

Every GP Practice in England has access to an existing Patient Search Identification (PSI) Tool.

This takes a matter of minutes to generate a list of patients with codes for hepatitis C or risk factors for hepatitis C.

Who are the missing patients?

- 1. People with historic risk factors:
 - Past Intravenous Drug User
 - Past homelessness
 - Past prison stay
 - Pre-1996 blood product transfusion
 - Transfusion or medical care abroad
- 2. Those born in or receiving medical care in high prevalence countries.

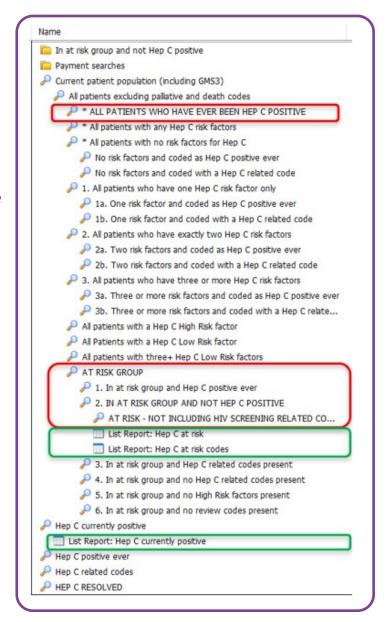
To run the search in your practice:

EMIS practices - To generate lists of patients with hepatitis C codes or risk factor codes in EMIS - in the Population Reporting module, EMIS Library>SNOMED Searches >EMIS Clinical Utilities > Third Sector Partnerships > Hepatitis C Searches - deployment funded by MSD UK

SystmOne practices

Email hepcsearches@vipc.co.uk with your practice code to request the searches.



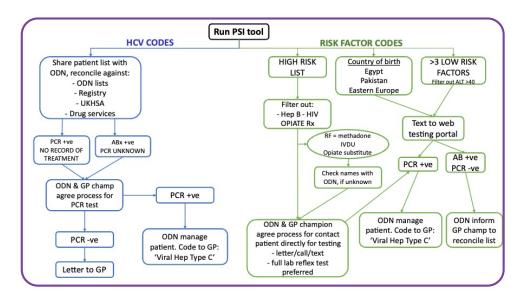


What to do with the search results:

Your local Hepatitis C Operational Delivery Network (ODN) can support the management of the search results. You can find the contact for your ODN on the image.

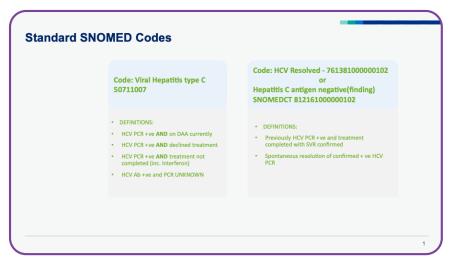
- 1. Review of HCV coded patient list by your ODN
- 2. Arrange confirmatory testing of antibody positive but PCR unknown patients
- 3. Cohort the Risk Factor coded list. The flowchart below identifies how to do this.
- 4. Arrange testing for patients with high risk factors and signposting to the self-testing portal for those with >3 low risks
- 5. All people over 18 living in England can access a free home test for HCV here: <u>Home HepC</u>. There are brief videos available to send to patients via text who have risk factors and need signposting to the self-testing website
 - https://www.hepculater.com/hepatitis-ctesting-page-1/
 - https://www.hepculater.com/hepatitis-ctesting-page-2/
 - https://www.hepculater.com/hepatitis-ctesting-page-3/

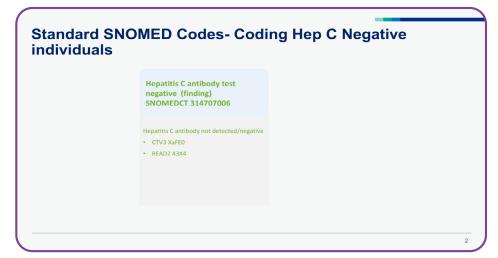




What to do with the search results:

6. Code patients according to the agreed standardised coding:





Hepatitis C (HCV) results interpretation table with the relevant codes for Primary Care (click on the image to download a high resolution copy).

- 1. Any results with a less than sign (<) indicate that the sample has not reached the threshold of detection should be considered as negative.
- 2. If there are results you can't interpret speak to your ODN clinical leads.

Test	Result	Interpretation/action	SNOMED codes
Hepatitis C Antibody	Nonreactive	No HCV antibody detected. Sample can be reported as nonreactive for HCV antibody. No further action required.	Hepatitis C antibody test negative (finding) SNOMEDCT 314707006
Hepatitis C Antibody	Reactive	Presumptive HCV infection. A repeatedly reactive result is consistent with current HCV infection, or past HCV infection, or past HCV infection that has resolved, or biologic false positivity for HCV antibody. Test for HCV RNA (HCV antigen) to identify current infection.	Viral Hepatitis C 5071100750711007
Hepatitis C Antibody AND Hepatitis C RNA PCR(HCV antigen)	Reactive AND Detected	Indicates current HCV infection. Link person tested to care and treatment- for appropriate follow up.	Viral Hepatitis C 50711007
Hepatitis C Antibody AND Hepatitis C RNA PCR (HCV antigen)	Reactive AND Not Detected	No current HCV infection No further action required in most cases. If distinction between true positivity and biologic false positivity for HCV antibody is desired, and if sample is repeatedly reactive in the initial test, test with another HCV antibody assay, In certain situations, follow up with HCV RNA (HCV antigen) testing.	HCV Resolved 761381000000102 Or Hepatitis C antigen (RNA) negative 812161000000102



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