

Hep C U Later Pilot Report:

The Hattersley Testing Event 14/8/25

HEP C
U Later

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 aimed at widening awareness, testing, treatment or the prevention of hepatitis C in organisations which sit outside of community drug and alcohol treatment services.

The following report details the steps to implementation, outcomes and key learning from the pilot.

Pilot Outline:

This pilot had four aims:



- To engage with people who had potentially been at a 'high' risk of hepatitis C who have various coding markers attached to their patient records at Hattersley GP Practice
- For people at 'high' risk of hepatitis C to have a fibro scan at the same time as their blood borne virus (BBV) test
- To invite all other patients from the practice to come along for BBV testing
- To carry out opportunistic 'health checks'

The purpose of the testing event was to look at the prevalence of hepatitis C within the Hattersley area. The GP practice have knowledge of how diverse the local population is and wanted to ensure that they were doing all that they can do for their patients, and to ensure that they had equal access to BBV testing.

Hattersley GP practice wanted to offer a basic health check i.e. blood pressure checks to those patients who attended for BBV testing. This was to help combat stigma around BBV's and ensure that patients felt that the afternoon was a full health MOT.

Implementation:

There were numerous organisations that were involved, not only in the planning but also in the 'hands on' elements of the day – their dedication and collaboration made the event a success.

Partnerships:

The partners involved in the event were:

- Hattersley GP practice
- Patient Participation Group (PPG)
- Greater Manchester Operational Delivery Network (ODN)
- Local community treatment vans
- Hep C U Later



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Hep C U Later ensured the day was organised and that all partners in the event were continuously communicated with, as well as ensuring that dry blood spot tests (DBSTs) from the ODN were available for the day with a process in place for results to be fed back to the practice and therefore the patients.

Promoting the event:

Posters (appendix A) were put up in the local area with details of the event, alongside social media posts on local social media to promote the event (appendix B).

Event planning:

During the implementation, the governance around the testing came under the governance procedures of the ODN.

The session was scheduled for 14th August 2025, and was due to run from 12:30-16:00 at The Hub, Mottram in Longdendale, Hyde, SK14 6AF. This venue was chosen because it was central in the community and being easily accessible.

The biggest challenge was ensuring that a clinic bed was able to be sourced for the fibro scans to take place. The ODN were instrumental in sourcing this and the van that they arranged to attend had plenty of space and capacity for fibro scanning to take place.



Outcomes:

- The ODN provided 100 DBSTs
- During the day, 98 DBST's were undertaken. 2 testing forms were filled out incorrectly and were therefore not viable.
- Individuals who were tested were informed they would be contacted by a hepatitis nurse if their result was positive.
- The DBSTs ran out at 15:30, following that people were helped to log on and order a test via the hepatitis C testing portal. There were approximately 15-20 people who were signposted to the testing portal.



- Following the event, there have been 81 results returned so far, all of which were negative. 3 tests were not processed due to insufficient samples.
- Unfortunately, no health checks were carried out due the unexpected but positive volume of people that attended the event. 6 professionals from various teams were taking DBSTs to ensure that all those who took the time to attend were able to be tested and awareness was raised.

Learning:

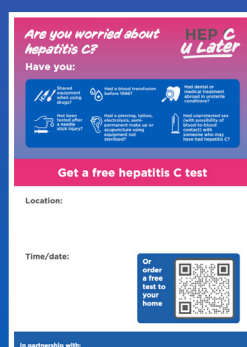
- A key learning point is that it is essential to ensure that messaging around fasting before fibro scanning is sent out to patients who are planning to attend any testing events. There were a number of individuals who attended and were 'eligible' for a fibro scan, however due to them recently having their lunch they were unable to be scanned. Whilst this felt disappointing on the day, it has paved the way for the nurses and the GP practice to be better linked to ensure that they are able to undertake another scanning event possibly in the GP surgery.
- When further testing events are planned the number of DBSTs available needs to exceed the highest potential attendance.
- There are plans to complete the event again but instead utilising the GP practice rather than The Hub, as well as again offering fibro scanning and health checks.
- Addressing stigma is key to ensuring people feel able to attend for testing. Offering testing to everyone regardless of risks was successful.
- No incentives were offered as part of this testing event and this was in part driven by the PPG who felt that people should attend because they wanted to check on their health not because they were paid to do so. Not offering incentives did not appear to have any direct effect on non-attendance.

Our key learning:

1. It is vital to ensure enough testing kits are available, as well as alternative if testing cannot be completed that day.
2. Collaboration across multiple organisations means a good wrap-around offer can be provided, making every contact count.
3. Offering testing to everyone reduces stigma and helps people to see it as a positive health intervention.



Appendix A



Appendix B

