

Working with the:



HEP C U Later

National Cepheid GeneXpert Report

Introduction and Background:

Hep C U Later is a small team commissioned by NHS England's (NHSE) Viral Hepatitis Elimination Programme, with the ultimate aim of supporting the elimination of viral hepatitis in England.

Hep C U Later is an NHS initiative of the NHS Addictions Provider Alliance (NHS APA), a collaboration of 19 NHS Trusts that provide drug, alcohol, or gambling services. Across one of its programmes, Hep C U Later supports around 50 community drug and alcohol treatment services to reach hepatitis C micro-elimination. The work with community drug and alcohol treatment services began in January 2020, and Hep C U Later works with multiple systems and partners to help services achieve this goal.

Hep C U Later supports community drug and alcohol treatment services through data analysis, education, resources, engagement, improving testing and treatment uptake, enhancing pathways, communications and marketing, and multi-agency working. The Hep C U Later team also collaborate with other NHSE elimination initiatives and works across health and social care organisations across England.

What is a Cepheid GeneXpert Machine?

The Cepheid GeneXpert machine is a rapid, automated molecular diagnostic platform that uses a real-time PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) test to detect viral RNA (ribonucleic acid) from blood samples and is designed for point-of-care testing, delivering results in under an hour. The machine is portable and can be used anywhere there is a power supply, and it can run multiple tests at one time, depending on the number of ports on the machine.

The Journey of Hep C U Later, MSD and Cepheid – 2020- 2026:

From 2020-2026, as part of their elimination tender with NHSE, Merck Sharp & Dohme (MSD) funded Cepheid GeneXpert machines, cartridges and minivettes, together with programme management. Alongside this, every Operational Delivery Network (ODN) was provided with NHSE funding to purchase their own Cepheid GeneXpert machine, with most of them following through on the purchase. In 2020, Hep C U Later were introduced to the programme team within MSD and started to explore joint working opportunities.



November 2020 - Early discussions:

In November 2020, Hep C U Later started discussions with MSD regarding the feasibility of Hep C U Later having one of the funded machines, which had not been fully utilised due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Hep C U Later completed a scoping exercise and decided to place the machine in the Wessex ODN with the Hampshire Hep C Hants Peer to Peer (P2P) team (Inclusion, part of Midlands Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust).

January 2021 - The first machine:

In January 2021, Hep C U Later took delivery of the first Cepheid GeneXpert machine and received training from Sophie (Sophronia) Lewis from Cepheid. Hep C U Later named the first machine in their possession 'Cindy Cepheid', and very quickly, the machine was mobilised across Hampshire.

Over the next few months, Hep C U Later worked alongside both MSD and Cepheid on the data collection and Hep C U Later developed a Cepheid GeneXpert Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to underpin the governance processes and ensure continuity in its implementation.

The SOP, now in a further iteration, can be viewed here: [Cepheid-SOP-v4.3-1.pdf](#)



April 2021 - The second machine:

In April 2021, Hep C U Later took delivery of a second machine, 'Cyril' which was attributed to the Surrey Hepatitis ODN and placed within the Inclusion Aldershot community drug and alcohol treatment service (part of Midlands Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust, MPFT).

Once testing was completed in Aldershot, Hep C U Later met with MSD to discuss the opportunity to use this machine across the NHS APA member services to drive forward the micro-elimination of hepatitis C in community drug and alcohol treatment services. Hep C U Later then worked with MSD to draw up a loan agreement to use with the individual services. Training was arranged through Hep C U later and MSD provided cartridges. The services utilised the machine and provided anonymised monthly data back to Hep C U Later who collated this for MSD and NHSE.

May 2021 - Building national momentum:

Hep C U Later brought people together to navigate challenges with the Cepheid GeneXpert machines, and to share learning and best practices.

Hep C U Later reached out to ODNs to encourage their use and invited them to name the machines to raise awareness. Many ODNs took up this offer, leading to:

- 'Costas' in the Lancashire and South Cumbria ODN
- 'Charlie' on a clinical van in the South-West Peninsula
- 'Cheyenne' with The Hepatitis C Trust in Birmingham
- 'Claude' the pan-London machine
- 'Clarisse' in the Wessex ODN
- And many others, including 'Colette', 'Cecile', 'Celia', 'Clive'.

In European Testing Week (14-21st May) 2021, Hep C U Later led a social media campaign celebrating Cepheid GeneXpert machines, and where organisations were encouraged to share photos of their machines, with many doing so.

Hep C U Later also took part in the HCV Action 'Best Practice In Hepatitis C Outreach' webinar on 20th May 2021, including the use of vans and 'pop-up' clinics, where they highlighted the versatility and effectiveness of the Cepheid GeneXpert machines.

In December 2021, Hep C U Later facilitated a verification and validation project as part of the NHSE Needs Assessment Project. The brief for the Needs Assessment Project was to take venous and capillary samples from the same people for analysis and reporting.

Hep C U Later saw this as an opportunity to provide additional reassurance of Cepheid GeneXpert verification and validation, and therefore took additional samples. The exercise demonstrated the efficacy of the Cepheid GeneXpert machines compared to other sampling methods, and the findings were shared with ODNs.



2022 – Rolling out multiple machines to drive elimination:

In January 2022, Hayley Ward from MSD presented at the Hep C U Later webinar on ‘Hepatitis C – Testing, Results, Treatment & Elimination’, and Louise Hansford presented on the Hep C U Later Cepheid GeneXpert programme. This webinar was very well received, and later professionals reached out to Hep C U Later and downloaded resources from the website.

Due to the success of the Hep C U Later Cepheid GeneXpert project in 2022, Tony Mullaney joined the Hep C U Later team and took over the management of the machines and the training offer. Another two machines were added to the Hep C U Later portfolio, named ‘Candie’ and ‘Christine’. Hep C U Later also took over the management of the pan-London machine ‘Claude’. The original two machines, ‘Cindy’ and ‘Cyril’, became established on the Wessex ODN Clinical Van.

‘Candie’, ‘Cyril’ and ‘Christine’ were the three machines that Hep C U Later loaned to NHS APA community drug and alcohol treatment services across England.

2023/2024 – Sharing learning and expertise:

In 2023 (year 4) and 2024 (year 5), NHSE secured Capital Funding, and ODNs were able to request funding to purchase their own Cepheid GeneXpert machines. Hep C U Later supported several ODNs with their applications, providing information on data collection, training, governance, and quality assurance.

In March 2024, Wessex ODN Clinical Van service purchased their own Cepheid GeneXpert machines with funding from NHSE. They were named ‘Georgia and Gillyon’ GeneXpert’ and Hep C U Later continued to support the governance, training and data collection.

In September 2024, Tony Mullaney facilitated a ‘Best Practice Cepheid GeneXpert Practitioners Forum’. This included presentations from NHSE, UKHSA, the NHS APA member services and The Hepatitis C Trust.

This event was well received; resources were shared, and data were discussed in detail. In April 2024, three machines were returned to MSD, and ‘Cindy’, ‘Cyril’, and ‘Claude’ retired after an amazing three years diagnosing hepatitis C and confirming sustained viral responses across England.



2025 – Reducing the offer:

In 2025 (year 6) of the national viral hepatitis elimination programme, the sector saw a reduction in funding across the network, including the MSD Cepheid GeneXpert offer to Hep C U Later. During this time, community drug and alcohol treatment services were beginning to use them less due to their progress towards hepatitis C micro-elimination.

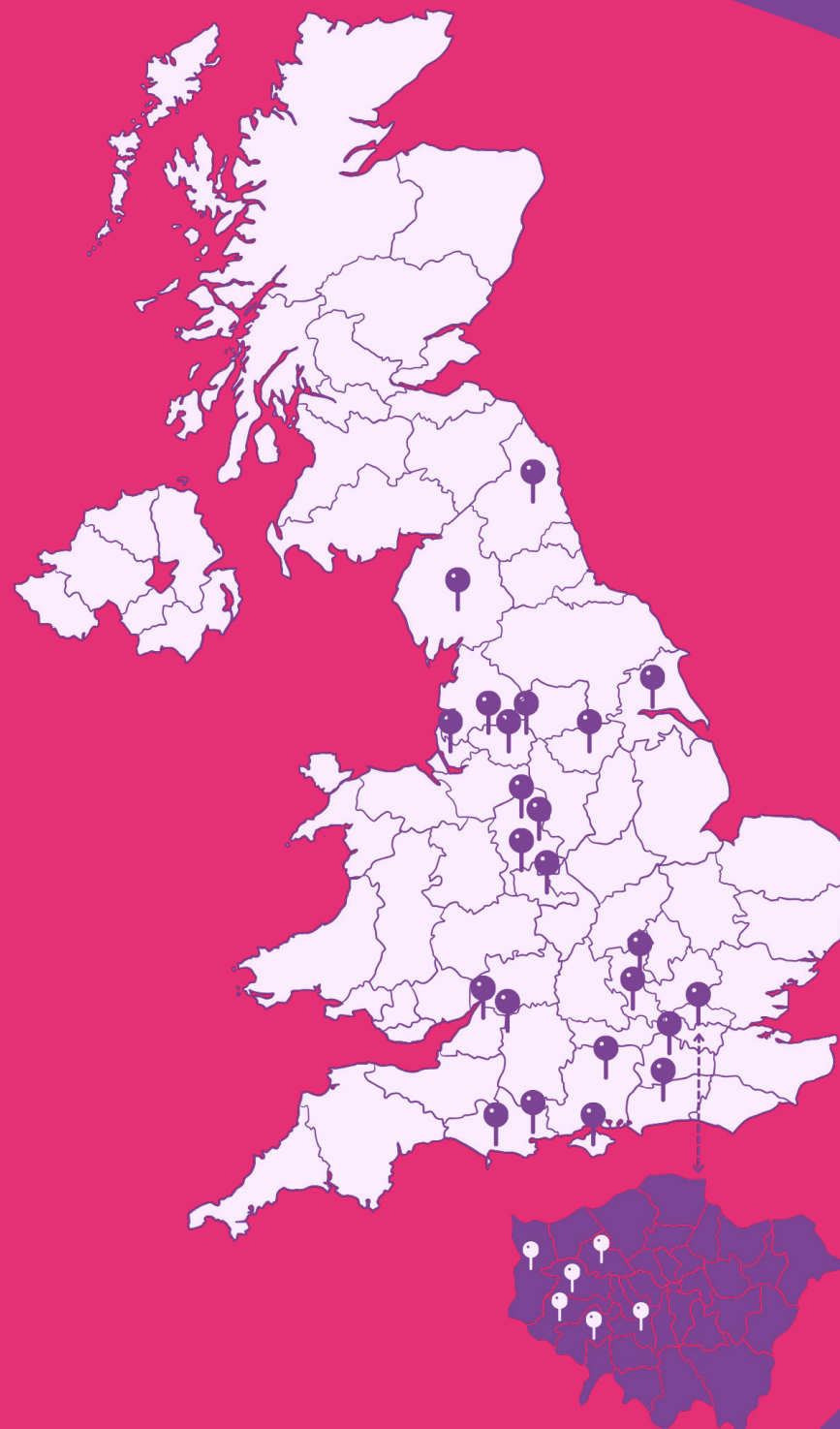
This led to the return of 'Christine'. By the 31st March 2026, Hep C U Later managed one machine loaned to services across the NHS APA network called 'Candie'.

Cepheid GeneXpert Machine Placements 2020-2026:

Over the years, the Hep C U Later Cepheid GeneXpert machines have toured numerous NHS and partner services, many multiple times. This is a list of many of the areas covered:

- **Inclusion One Recovery Bucks** (part of Midlands Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust, MPFT)
- **Inclusion Telford STaRS** (part of Midlands Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust, MPFT)
- **Staffordshire** (part of Midlands Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust, MPFT)
- **Ealing** (Change Grow Live and Central North West London NHS Foundation Trust)
- **Isle of Wight** (Inclusion, part of Midlands Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust, MPFT)
- **Wessex Clinical Vans** (Wessex ODN and Inclusion, part of Midlands Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust, MPFT)
- **Across Hampshire services** (Inclusion, part of Midlands Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust, MPFT)
- **Recovery Near You Wolverhampton** (Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Trust)
- **SIAS Solihull** (Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Trust)
- **Stockport** (Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust)
- **Hounslow** (Central North West London NHS Foundation Trust)
- **Hillingdon** (Central North West London NHS Foundation Trust)
- **Milton Keynes** (Central North West London NHS Foundation Trust)
- **Brent and Cobold Road** (VIA and Central North West London NHS Foundation Trust)
- **Brent and Willesdon** (VIA and Central North West London NHS Foundation Trust)
- **Richmond** (South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust)
- **Wandsworth** (South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust)
- **Bath** (Avon and Wiltshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust)

- **Bristol** (Bristol Drugs Project and Avon and Wiltshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust)
- **Dorset** (Waythrough and Avon and Wiltshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust)
- **Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole** (We Are With You and Avon and Wiltshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust)
- **Salford** (Greater Manchester Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust)
- **Bury** (Greater Manchester Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust)
- **Northumberland Recovery Partnership** (Cumbria, Northumberland Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust)
- **Hepatitis C Trust North East and North Cumbria ODN, England**
- **I-Access Surrey** (Surrey and Borders NHS Foundation Trust)
- **East Riding Partnership** (Humber Teaching NHS Foundation Trust)
- **Brooke Place, Liverpool** (Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust)
- **Doncaster** (Rotherham Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust)
- **The Wessex GP Return to Care Project** (Inclusion, part of Midlands Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust, MPFT)



The Hep C U Later Process for the Loan of a Hep C U Later Cepheid GeneXpert Machines:



The process for a service loaning a machine from Hep C U Later to a community drug and alcohol treatment service often began through the Hep C U Later Elimination Coordinators, Louise Hansford and Laura Hughes, discussing targeted hepatitis C work and identifying a need.

Hep C U Later's Cepheid Project Lead, Tony Mullaney, would begin building a plan for implementation with the service, including meeting with the teams to discuss the loan's responsibilities to the community drug and alcohol treatment service, to identify preliminary work, and to discuss the loan agreement. The steps taken by Hep C U Later to implement a loan of the Cepheid GeneXpert machine would entail the following:

- Tailored loan plan developed with service lead via MS Teams meeting or in person
- Loan agreement, user guides and data collection spreadsheets emailed to the service lead
- Visit to the service who had been loaned to previously to complete a data purge and a deep clean of the machine in preparation for transportation to the new service
- Plans made to ship the machine, developed and confirmed with MSD, and the service receiving the machine
- Installation and training day booked
- Installation and set-up of the machine
- Training developed and delivered by Tony Mullaney, including:
 - » Practical 'hands-on' blood testing techniques using the minivette method
 - » Running a live test on the machine
 - » Explanation of how to read the results on the machine once a test is complete
 - » Storing of testing certificates
 - » How to log in to the Cepheid GeneXpert laptop so the testing certificates could be sent to staff at the service, stored in a person's documents and used in the referral process to Hepatology if treatment was required
 - » A look at the data recording and reporting requirements of the loan
 - » Information on the supply and how to order consumable items (MSD and Hep C U Later supplied cartridges and minivettes only)
 - » Cleaning requirements for the Cepheid GeneXpert machine

As a team, Hep C U Later would decide to end a loan with one service and begin the process of moving a machine to the new service, often at opposite ends of the country.

Hep C U Later learned early on that teams could lose confidence in using a Cepheid GeneXpert machine if it wasn't used regularly. In response to this, the Hep C U Later Cepheid Project Lead booked regular MS Teams meetings with the service leads, was available to support online or face-to-face to troubleshoot issues (especially early in a loan period), and built in additional visits to build team familiarity with the machine. Tony Mullaney was also available to support with testing events at the service when needed.

Data Collection:

From the beginning of the Hep C U Later agreement with MSD in 2021, Hep C U Later has collected and reported anonymised data, providing an enhanced data set which illustrated the impact on people accessing testing as well as outcomes. In 2023, Hep C U Later began working more closely with UKHSA on data collection as the team identified a need to streamline the recording and sharing of testing information across the ODNs.

The National Cepheid GeneXpert Census Report:

In 2025, Hep C U Later conducted the National Cepheid GeneXpert Census across 18 ODNs and 6 Community Drug and Alcohol Treatment Providers. The report can be viewed here: [Combined-ODN-Drug-Treatment-Providers-Cepheid-GenExpert-Census-Report-v3-.pdf](#)

The findings from the National Cepheid GeneXpert Census included the following, many of which relate to improvements which could be made around data recording and sharing to positively impact on the elimination of hepatitis C:

1. Develop standardised SOPs and data sharing frameworks across ODNs.
2. Seek consent to share results with UKHSA at the point of the test, and implement mechanisms to do this monthly or quarterly.
3. Provide national guidance on minimum data sets which can be used for Cepheid GeneXpert tests.
4. Improve integration between prison healthcare systems, community drug treatment and ODN data recording registries.
5. Build consistent data sets which are linked to patient clinical records, including UKHSA.
6. Support the training and adoption of Cepheid 360 software.
7. Further explore the data sharing of all RNA results from community drug and alcohol treatment services to UKHSA/ODN/NHSE.



Sustainability:

As part of Hep C U Later's ongoing communication with ODNs, the team became aware of a large number of cartridges expiring and being wasted. Capitalising on the relationships Hep C U Later has with the ODNs and our commitment to reducing wastage and upholding NHS sustainability goals, Hep C U Later implemented a Cepheid GeneXpert Cartridge Waste Management Project.

Hep C U Later had received feedback from across the ODNs that several areas had ordered large stocks of Cepheid GeneXpert cartridges and were unable to use them all before their expiry. This led to a substantial number of cartridges being wasted, and Hep C U Later highlighted that difficulties with procurement had led organisations to place larger orders to avoid running out and to cover delays as orders arrived. The cost of a cartridge was £40, with the addition of plastic going to waste and its impact on the environment.

Hep C U Later implemented the Cepheid Cartridge Waste Management Project in direct response to the issue. An email was sent to community drug and alcohol treatment services and ODNs, asking them to identify cartridges nearing expiry. After the first email, two services came forward offering 140 short-dated cartridges. A follow-on email was sent across the network offering these cartridges to services with a pledge to use them before they expire. The response was highly successful, and all 140 cartridges were allocated to 6 services within 24 hours; some were delivered by hand to reduce additional environmental impact and cost, and some were delivered by post.

Phase 2 of the project was completed in early 2026, with services donating a further 100 cartridges with short expiry dates. These cartridges were allocated to 5 services, and, again, some were delivered by hand as part of already planned journeys, while the rest were posted. Due to the project's success, this became a business-as-usual process for the time Hep C U Later had access to the machines.

The total cost and environmental savings were:

- **240 cartridges saved from not being used**
- **£7200 cost savings**
- **Carbon saving equivalent of planting almost 800 trees**
- **The project cost Hep C U Later a total of £90 in postage**

Cepheid GeneXpert Testing Data:

From 2021 to 2026, the Hep C U Later national Cepheid GeneXpert data collected from machines loaned to NHS APA member services show:

- **3,767 Tests Completed**
- **483 HCV Positive Results, of which 121 were Confirmed as reinfections**
- **Over 450 Confirmed Treatment Starts**
- **159 Spontaneous Clearance of the Virus Confirmed**
- **758 SVR Tests (sustained viral response to treatment)**

Please note that some people will have had several tests completed.

To read more in detail about the Cepheid GeneXpert Cartridge Waste Management Project a report is available here: [Cepheid-Cartridge-Waste-Management-Project-Pilot.pdf](#)

Sustainability - A National Perspective:

1. The following are national considerations for the future of Cepheid GeneXpert machines:
2. Funding is a major risk factor to the longevity of Cepheid GeneXpert machines being used in the maintenance of hepatitis C elimination. Many of the machines and related consumables are funded by the pharmaceutical industry and NHSE. There is no guarantee of funding for machines, cartridges, and maintenance post-April 2026.
3. Cartridge supply and waste - All Cepheid GeneXpert cartridges have an expiry date, and without a structured plan to rotate and use short-dated stock, there is a risk of wastage. Hep C U Later has led the cartridge waste management project, achieving excellent results and savings in both monetary value and environmental impact. Without extended funding, the waste management project will end, and waste management will be a major factor in future purchasing.
4. Data accuracy and recording are essential elements of maintaining sustainability. Evidencing the work of organisations and reporting to appropriate agencies, such as ODNs, NHSE, UKHSA, and local commissioning bodies, is vital. By continuing to accurately report all test findings, organisations can help inform public health organisations' monitoring of the national picture of HCV elimination.
5. Beyond elimination funding - If the pharmaceutical industry funding for Cepheid GeneXpert consumables completely ends in March 2026, the purchasing of cartridges will have to be factored into ODN and community drug and alcohol treatment provider service-level budgeting, and also factored into commissioning contracts with Local Authorities and/or public health funding.
6. Maintenance - if machines are on loan from pharmaceutical industry companies, and the agreement continues, the machines will come with a maintenance service package from Cepheid. However, if the machine was allocated as part of the NHSE capital funding bids, this may not be the case. Each service must investigate if the machine in their service/area has a service/maintenance plan.

“Dear Tony and Hep C U Later team.

I would like to share with you and your team that we have found the Cartridge Waste Management Project extremely valuable. Just this week, we were able to share two boxes (20 cartridges) with the East Kent team, ensuring they could be used before expiry.

Earlier this year, in February 2025, we also benefited from 20 cartridges that were allocated to the HMP Elmley team.

This initiative has helped us avoid waste, support our ODN services, and contribute to cost savings and sustainability.

Thank you once again for your support and for leading such an important initiative.”

Carlos Moro, ECHO and Engagement Manager,
(Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes),
Liver - Viral Hepatitis, King's College Hospital NHS
Foundation Trust



7. Competing priorities - As hepatitis C prevalence declines due to the level of testing and treatment delivered over the course of the project, services may begin to deprioritise cartridge purchasing and maintenance budgets. This may create a risk of early re-infection detection and delays in confirming SVR, leading to a possible rise in HCV prevalence.
8. The GeneXpert is a versatile diagnostic instrument. It can be used for more than running tests for hepatitis C. There is the possibility that the Cepheid GeneXpert machine may be used to test for HIV and hepatitis B, potentially extending its value. Hep C U Later is planning a pilot project with Cepheid in 2026-2027, exploring the use of the existing machines for additional blood-borne virus testing.

Hep C U Later Resources Developed to Support Organisations:

Hep C U Later recognised that to improve the use of Cepheid GeneXpert machines across England to support the elimination of hepatitis C resources were required for professionals. Following a feedback exercise, Hep C U Later developed an editable Cepheid GeneXpert Standard Operating Procedure, a webpage collating all resources, short how-to videos, and case studies of best practice featuring the use of the machines.

In 2024, Hep C U Later ran a Cepheid GeneXpert Practitioner's Forum to share learning, troubleshoot issues, and inspire the use of the machine to achieve hepatitis C micro-elimination.

- **Hep C U Later Cepheid GeneXpert SOP** - The Hep C U Later Cepheid GeneXpert SOP can be viewed here: [Cepheid-SOP-v4.3-1.pdf](#)
- **Hep C U Later Cepheid GeneXpert Webpage** - A dedicated Hep C U Later webpage hosting information and resources related to Cepheid GeneXpert machines can be accessed here: [Cepheid GeneXpert Machines - HEP C U Later](#)
- **Cepheid GeneXpert Testing How To Video** - Hep C U Later created a video demonstration on taking a Cepheid GeneXpert sample with Alan Howard, Hep C Hants Peer to Peer Lead, Inclusion Hampshire (part of Midlands Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust). [Watch it here.](#)
- **Cepheid GeneXpert Implementation and Management SOP** - The Hep C U Later Cepheid GeneXpert Implementation and Management SOP details the processes for rolling out the machines across a national footprint: [Internal-Cepheid-GenExpert-Machine-Implementation-and-Management-SOP-06.08.24.pdf](#)



Feedback from People Tested Using the Cepheid GeneXpert Machines

Importantly, people tested using these machines found them beneficial, particularly for the turnaround time in results and the simple finger-prick testing method when venous access was challenging. Importantly, people being tested through this method had a positive experience.

“I had Hepatitis C treatment this year, and I found the team very helpful. The treatment was easy - only 1 tablet a day for 12 weeks, and I had no side effects or problems taking this. When the van team tried to make contact with me for a blood test, which was just a finger prick, they had issues trying to get hold of me as my phone would not charge. Because of this, someone from the team found me and took me to the van for my blood test. I got my results within 1 hour. I would recommend Hep C treatment to anyone who needs it.”

“This service is incredible. I haven’t been tested in years because I don’t have any veins, and it is such a hassle. The fact that you came to my house and used your machine without needing to take blood from my vein is one thing, but to tell me I don’t have Hep C on the same day is out of this world. When I used to go to the hospital, it would take weeks to get the results. Thank you so much, it’s such a worry off my mind.”

“I liked to have the blood taken from my finger, every time I see a pin it reminds me of using, and I just don’t want to do that these days.”

“Five-star treatment! My husband recently had Hep C treatment. The Liver Nurse, Clinical Van Co-Ordinator, and the Hep C Trust all came to our home to talk us through the treatment before it started, as we had some concerns/anxieties. They were patient, let us talk, were very understanding of our concerns, and gave us all the information we needed to make our decision. All staff have been polite.”



Feedback from Organisations and Professionals Using the Cepheid GeneXpert Machines:

Hep C U later, and the many stakeholders who have been loaned and used the Cepheid GeneXpert machines have found value in this fast and effective testing method.



“The introduction of Cepheid machines has made a huge difference in terms of accuracy and timing. This removes a huge barrier. Lots of people would be put off from having a test if they have poor venous access. Cepheid machines allow us to test with capillary blood rather than venous blood, which has been a huge benefit. It’s reduced the time to treatment significantly, and now they can be on their treatment pathway much quicker.”



“We are loving having use of the Cepheid, and our patients think finding out within an hour if they have an active virus is amazing.

The Cepheid is an amazing piece of machinery and is helping speed up the treatment pathway for all the new patients we have found. Moving forward, we have many more venues already booked, and we are looking forward to seeing the outcomes.

Thank you for allowing us to help our patients by using Christine.”

“For us at Brook Place, having the Cepheid machine for the last 3 months has proven amazingly effective, as we have been able to move closer to micro-elimination quicker than we ever imagined.

Having the Cepheid at Brook Place has also increased our engagement in Hep C testing, as we have been testing during clients’ appointments rather than signposting them to outreach clinics, which, unfortunately, most do not attend. We also have more phlebotomists, including me, here to accommodate any blood that needs to be drawn as well.

From the client’s perspective, we have been able to test and deliver results within an hour, which is very important to them, as most clients can become quite anxious waiting for results and outcomes. We have been able to eliminate that worry.

We have also been able to update our systems on the same day, which has helped with effective data uploads and has shown positive outcomes on the monthly dashboards.”



“This incredibly impressive initiative has helped the NHS minimise waste and help use resources more efficiently, which is necessary for assisting the NHS in reaching its ‘Greener NHS’ goals and for improving patient care.”



“The Hep C U Later team have revolutionised our approach to testing and managing Hepatitis C in Solihull. With your dedicated support, we have had targeted data to enable us to start testing in a swift manner, the loan of a Cepheid machine to assist SIAS with mass testing and given us the drive and enthusiasm with your countless emails and calls of support. I am certain, Ben, and I could not achieve what we have without your support.”

Summary:

Hep C U Later's learning from years of using Cepheid GeneXpert machines (funded by MSD as part of the NHSE elimination tender) is captured in part in this report.

Key learning includes the need to be responsive to service needs, including providing support that can be delivered on a national scale. It is possible to see real-time cost and carbon savings from utilising networks where equipment such as this is used across multiple sites, and an organisation that drives the development of resources, training, policies, and guidance is also vital to the effective utilisation of high-cost equipment.

Sustainability planning ensures that Cepheid GeneXpert machines continue delivering high-impact, clinically valuable, and cost-effective diagnostic services beyond the end of the hepatitis C elimination programme.

By embedding testing into routine care, maintaining equipment, securing stable funding, and expanding its use to other conditions, the health system preserves the gains made in elimination. It ensures ongoing protection for inclusion health populations.

Having successfully managed a national programme to loan Cepheid GeneXpert machines across a wide range of NHS services and geographical locations, Hep C U Later is uniquely positioned to deliver further national initiatives of similar value, such as a possible FibroScan implementation across multiple community drug and alcohol treatment services.

Although the hepatitis C programme will come to an end as the system reaches its goals of elimination, significant work remains to be done across the sector to address liver disease caused by factors other than hepatitis C, including alcohol use, hepatitis B and D. The broader health inequalities experienced by people who access community drug and alcohol treatment services.

Thank you to the amazing team at MSD - Amanda Richard, Kuldip Sembi, Hayley Ward and Helen Treacher





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connect.hepculater@mpft.nhs.uk

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