

## HEPATITIS BUS - A NORWEGIAN OUTREACH PROJECT

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**Background:** In Norway, approximately 10 000 people live with HCV infection, of whom the majority are infected via use of syringes. Around 4000 are on OST. For many, contact with the ordinary health care system may be challenging. The aim of this project was to develop a mobile hepatitis bus for people who use drugs and try finding those still not tested or treated.

**Description of model of care/intervention:** The drug user organization proLAR Nett is operated and owned by users who have lived experience with OST treatment. The organization was founded in 2007 and has since then worked at individual- and system-level. In 2013 HCV became a flagship case and we have developed and distributed user-friendly brochures, given HCV lectures "From user to user" and developed a website (hepc.no). The present project "hepatitis bus" has been ongoing in 2019 and aims to contribute to faster treatment access for people who use drugs offering HCV RNA tests and FibroScan examination. The bus is staffed with a driver from the user organization and a nurse, and visits municipality all over the country. Project started with new funding from authorities early 2020.

**Effectiveness:** The hepatitis bus is on the road 14 days each month. Visiting different low threshold services each time, in several cities. The experience so far is that the users lack knowledge about HCV and that many are unaware of their infection status. During first 2 months we have tested 93 HCV RNA tests, and 18 HIV tests. Our nurse onboard writes down all test results, and contact hospital for further treatment and follow ups with prescription. Relationship and trust are key for a best practice running a user driven project like this.

**Conclusion and next steps:** The mobile hepatitis bus is an effective method for reaching users with information about HCV and linkage to care. New method includes HIV testing. Easier access to treatment is also one of the projects gains.

**Disclosure of Interest Statement:** proLAR Nett have been granted with fundings from AbbVie, MSD and GILEAD for the hepatitis bus in 2019. The Norwegian health department is currently funding the Hepatitis bus in 2020.