

THE SUSTAINABILITY OF MICRO ELIMINATION OF HEPATIS C- SUSTAINING SAFETY! ADAPTING PROVISION TO MITIGATE ADVERSITY

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Introduction:

The pandemic presented unprecedented challenges to the treatment sector, including our ability upholding the provision of established, critical harm reduction services in particular continuity to clean injecting equipment and our commitment to the elimination of Hepatitis C. How could we protect the distribution of resources and facilitate the same outcomes with significantly reduced face to face contact? The answer was our NSP-Direct initiative. A national contract was arranged with a trusted supplier, allowing individuals to order supplies directly to their address via internet. While face-to-face communication with individuals was reduced, the quality of care and conversation, nor equipment and resource, was not. Individuals were (and still are) required to speak with a staff member, at which point a unique code is provided to be able to order to supplies. Not only did NSP Direct mitigate during the pandemic, but access to this resource remains active, continuing to benefit individuals who prefer a wholly discrete service and/or that have any difficulties in physically accessing a service. Continuing our life saving Hepatitis C elimination work, during the pandemic, was also managed via a distance option. We were able to develop a self-testing pathway, first in response to the pandemic but a continued intervention post covid that has proved invaluable. Here, infection risk could be assessed, and essential information delivered virtually, followed by postage of testing kit that individuals could complete independently. Emerging from the depths of the pandemic did see a return to testing completion in the traditional way but the self-test was an important lifeline through Covid and is a long-term option for those that prefer remote contact.

Background:

Description of model of care/intervention:

Effectiveness:

Conclusion and next steps:

Disclosure of Interest Statement: *See example below:*

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