

BLOOD BORNE VIRUS (BBV) TESTING IN PRISONS: BEST PRACTICE TOOLKIT FOR RECEPTION BASED PATHWAYS

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Background: The World Health Organisation has set 2030 viral hepatitis elimination targets. To achieve these there is a need to engage and collaborate with a wider range of healthcare settings to embed patient finding and linkage-to-care initiatives, and to support patients into successful treatment. Prisons provide a unique opportunity to engage into care a vulnerable and complex patient group who may find it challenging to attend community-based services once outside of prison.

Description of model of care/ intervention: The BBV Prison Best Practice Toolkit for Reception Based Pathways is an interactive resource that was developed to support and provide guidance to prisons to create, evaluate and evolve BBV Care Pathways. The Toolkit structure follows the route of the BBV Care Pathway with examples of Best Practice Pathways in flow diagram format. The content includes: -

1. Creation of a Pathway Steering Committee
2. Reception Testing
3. Testing Modalities
4. Fibrosis Assessment
5. Treatment and Medication Management
6. Movement out of Prison
7. Training
8. Assessment of Needs & Evaluation of Pathways
9. Data Capture

Effectiveness: The Toolkit was created in collaboration with the expertise of organisations involved in the development of reception testing pathways across a wide variety of Prison environments. It has been used successfully by Prisons across England, supporting an increase in reception testing, across 43 prisons, from 25-60% within 12 months.

Conclusion and next steps: Creating a successful Prison BBV Care Pathways is a challenging task that requires the support and commitment of a multitude of stakeholders. Pathways require evolution and adaptation over time especially as the urgency of elimination deadlines increases. This Toolkit will be a valuable resource to prison and healthcare teams in generating robust pathways on the journey to elimination.

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