

ACHIEVING MICRO-ELIMINATION OF HEPATITIS C IN WEST KENT CHANGE, GROW, LIVE, THE FIRST LARGE, MULTI-SITE DRUG TREATMENT SERVICE TO DO SO IN ENGLAND, UK.

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Background:

The service covers 1042 clients over 3 sites across West Kent. BBV testing is done via a nurse-led model, with historic challenges seen within the identification/testing pathway. Staff had been reluctant to support and engage, as BBVs were not seen as part of their offering in supporting their clients.

Description of model of care/intervention:

A change of the whole team model of care, focused on driving staff engagement with supporting BBV testing, and de-medicalising the pathway so the whole team felt comfortable to be involved. After an initial care coordinator pathway workshop, a 6 week BBV educational model was delivered utilising the virtual ECHO system, with support from Kings College Hospital, to all staff, with a focus on upskilling team members to identify, test and refer clients at risk of BBVs. Over a 2 year period, the service has implemented specific interventions, including pop-up testing clinics, postal testing, specific care worker caseload testing support and incentivised programs. A designated treatment nurse was assigned to West Kent to ensure all identified HCV positive clients were treated and followed up.

Effectiveness:

Using the 2019 NHSE micro-elimination guidelines, West Kent CGL are the first multi-site, >1000 client service to achieve micro-elimination in England with 100% of all current/historic injecting clients offered a test, 90% of these clients tested in the past 12 months and 98% of positive HCV cases treated.

Conclusion and next steps:

By empowering all care coordinators to take ownership of offering and testing their caseloads for BBVs through virtual education, motivational focused interventions and developing a competitive nature across the three sites, it has been possible for the first large, multi-site service to achieve micro-elimination in England, and most significantly, achieving this during the Covid pandemic.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

N/a