

INHSU 2018

7TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON
HEPATITIS CARE IN SUBSTANCE USERS

by NEWSIFARMA

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Highlights from INHSU 2018: new models of care and broader issues in drug user health



WHO establishes five key interventions to reduce the incidence of hepatitis C all around the world

"Almost half of the people who use drugs are living with chronic hepatitis" – the statement is from **Annette Verster**, made during the session "What will it take to achieve the HCV elimination goals among people who inject drugs?" on the first day of INHSU 2018. In an interview for News Farma, the technical officer from World Health Organization (WHO) points out the urgent need to "scale up harm reduction in order to reduce incidence and new infections".

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Point-of-care testing and diagnostics for HCV infection: the importance of screening

On the second day of INHSU 2018, **Karine Lacombe** presented the session "Point-of-care testing and diagnostics for HCV infection: have we reached a single-visit diagnosis?" where she highlighted the importance of screening. In an interview for News Farma, the specialist from Hôpital Saint-Antoine refers that screening and testing "has to be increased because, at the present time, only about 20% of the patients infected with hepatitis C are aware".

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Applying the candidacy framework to inform research and practice in HCV care for people who use drugs

Try to come-up with a comprehensive framework that helps to understand why certain people, particularly people who inject drugs, have difficulty accessing to DAA therapy was the main goal of the **Stine Høj's** presentation. In an interview to News Farma, the specialist from Centre de Recherche of the Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (CHUM) says that this framework "allows us to find a way to intervene and to evaluate the program so we use to try improve treatment optic".

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Monitoring is an important step when thinking about strategies to facilitate linkage to care for people who use drugs

During the session "Strategies to Facilitate Linkage to Care for PWID in Low and Middle Income Countries", **Shruti Mehta**, professor on Johns Hopkins University, gives prominence to the monitoring process. In her belief, "if we don't know where we start, we don't know how to guide our programs and we won't be able to measure the impact".

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Overwhelming evidence demonstrates hepatitis C treatment effective for people who inject drugs

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**If elimination
by 2030 is to be
achieved, it's time
to use evidence
for better action**

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