

PRISON TO COMMUNITY FOLLOW ME MODEL

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Background:

The overarching aim of the program is to utilise personal experience of treatment and present an attractive and familiar environment so that clients feel that they want to 'Follow' our peers toward hepatitis C treatment. Each patient is individual and we use our expertise to build tailor-made support packages ranging from peer testing to one-to-one support and direct access into treatment clinics.

Description of model of care/intervention:

In 2019 we adapted the model to work with people leaving prison or on short sentences, a through the gate model. We identified that many people were being diagnosed in prison but leaving before they accessed treatment or leaving half way through treatment in particular those serving short sentences.

ODN/Prison nurses incorporated HCT's Follow Me consent form into their own consent form which is signed and agreed when a positive result is given to a prisoner. The nurse discusses the Hepatitis C role of the Peer, the key to the success of this model is the link between community and prison peer.

Effectiveness:

Year to date we have received 438 referrals, this is a mixture from Male and Female prisons, the majority of which come from reception prisons, the data range is varied with some prison referring 48 clients and others referring only 1. We have on average 25 prisons consistently using the follow me process

Conclusion and next steps:

In summary the clients get a full wrap around service with the follow me model, this as reduced the risk of client disengagement, clients lost to follow up and a reduction in breaks in treatment in a client leaves their medication in the prison.

To continue to role this out to prison in England and then take the model to Scotland, Wales and NI

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

The Hepatitis C Trust has received funding via the NHS England elimination agenda via Health in Justice