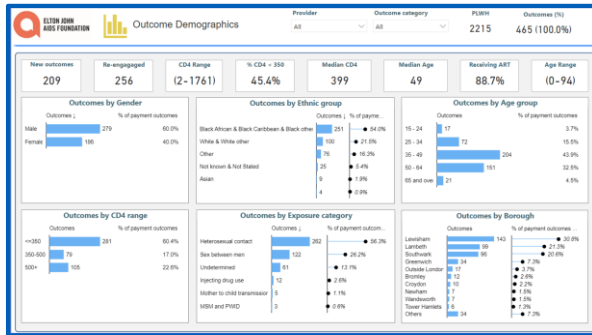


The Emergency Department Blood Borne Virus Opt-out testing programme

Steve Hindle, HIV Opt Out Testing Project Manager

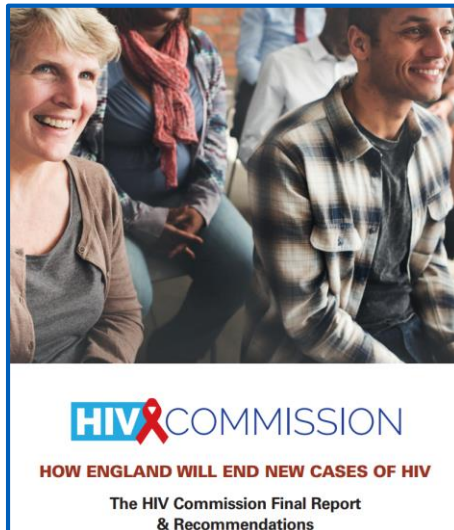
Dr Rachel Hill-Tout, Clinical Lead for ED BBV testing project

The ED BBV testing programme origins



British HIV Association/
British Association for Sexual Health and HIV/
British Infection Association

Adult HIV Testing Guidelines 2020



UK Health Security Agency

HIV testing, new HIV diagnoses, outcomes and quality of care for people accessing HIV services: 2021 report

The annual official statistics data release (data to end of December 2020)

1 December 2021

Department of Health & Social Care

Policy paper

Towards Zero - An action plan towards ending HIV transmission, AIDS and HIV-related deaths in England - 2022 to 2025

Updated 21 December 2021

Inclusion of viral hepatitis testing

Used a ‘reverse engineering’ approach to explore maximum other blood borne virus testing possibilities from the same blood sample taken for HIV testing.

Strong partnership and funding from NHS England HCV Elimination programme.

Coordination and convening across the London ICSs, with champions driving local progress.



The screenshot shows two parts of the NHS England website. The top part is a blog post titled "Our aim is to rid England of the Hepatitis C virus" dated 26 July 2019, written by Professor Graham Foster and Rachel Halford. The bottom part is the cover of a report titled "Hepatitis C in England 2022" from the UK Health Security Agency, with the subtitle "Working to eliminate hepatitis C as a public health problem".

NHS England

About us Our work Commissioning Get involved Coronavirus

Blog

Our aim is to rid England of the Hepatitis C virus

26 July 2019 Professor Graham Foster and Rachel Halford

Medicine Specialised commissioning

To mark World Hepatitis Day on Sunday, the Clinical Chair of NHS England's Hepatitis C (HCV) programme and the Chief Executive of the Hepatitis C Trust look at how an innovative new partnership is accelerating elimination of HCV in England.

 UK Health Security Agency

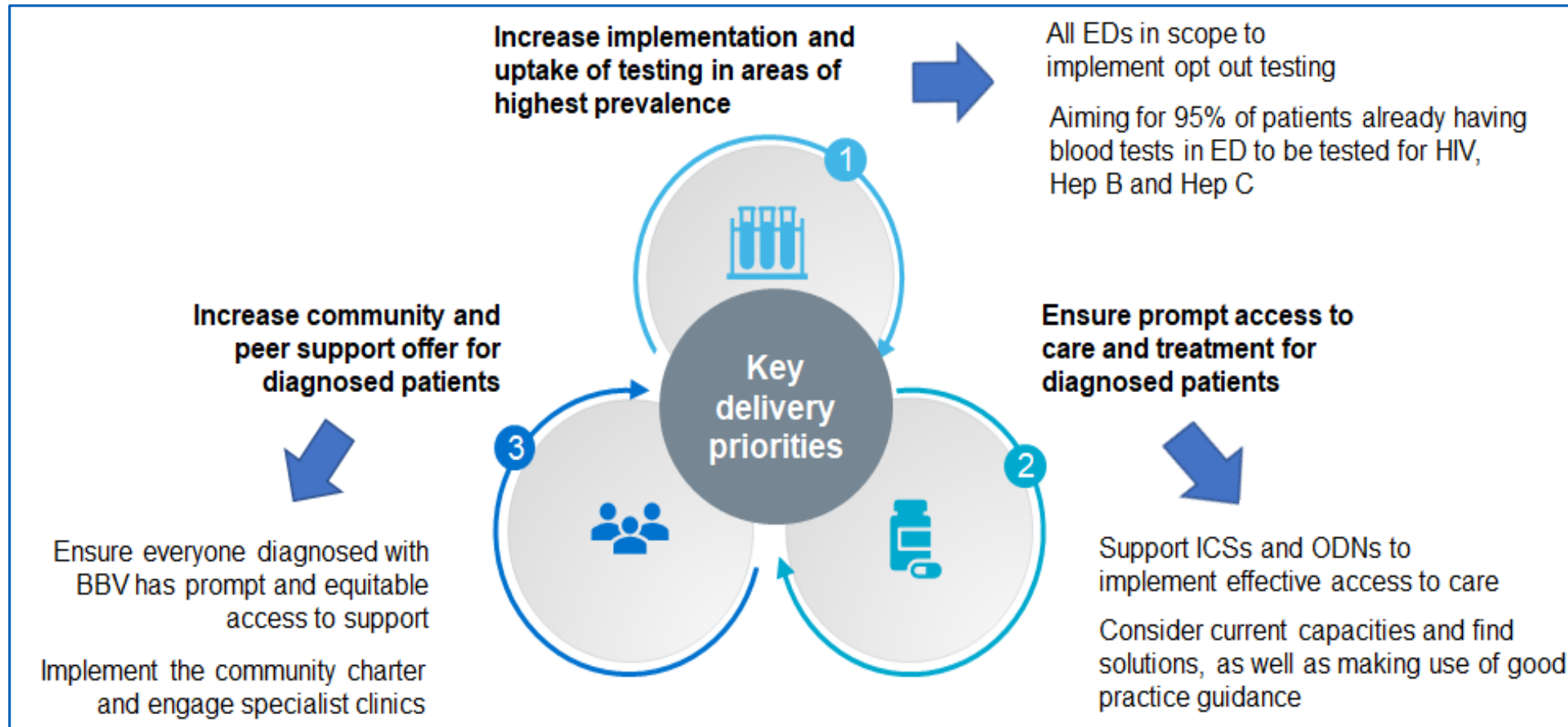
Hepatitis C in England 2022

Working to eliminate hepatitis C as a public health problem

Short report

Data to end of December 2020

Dynamic commissioning approach



Local actors

34 Emergency Departments are taking part:

- 33 testing for HIV, and
- 21 additionally testing for HBV and 23 for HCV.

Some Trusts have been testing for HIV or for HIV, HBV, HCV in emergency departments for a number of years, and have generously shared their learning to facilitate progress.

ICSs offering leadership and coordinating local steering groups.

Community organisations are active partners, sharing their experience of providing community and peer support.

The Fast Track City initiative has been very helpful in providing a framework for community organisations to test the most impactful interventions.

Co production



[Evolving HIV Care Report](#) co-produced with people living with HIV and the voluntary sector, informs a whole system, person-centred approach, anchoring efforts within the communities we serve. The HIV and Hepatitis Communities are developing a community charter:

- Comprehensive community culturally appropriate support to be made as early as possible for those diagnosed through ED testing.
- Transparency on funding and commissioning of community support and accountability of its appropriateness and effectiveness.
- Community support to be mapped across London and opportunities to commission in and across boroughs and ICS boundaries communicated to community partners.
- The long term cost benefits of financing community organisations to support engagement in care should be highlighted in the evaluation.
- There should be openness to form strategies for reengagement, understanding that a trauma informed, holistic, community and person centred approach may need additional funding.

National Results: April – Dec 2022

ED No. of attendees: 1,928,160		No. of blood drawn: 1,114,488		
HIV tests: 646,299		HBV sAg tests: 200,485		
HCV Ab tests: 270,601		HCV RNA tests: 2,525		
	New diagnosis	Previous diagnosis but not in care	Previous diagnosis and in care	Previously cleared infection
HIV	268	139	3,113	n/a
Hepatitis B	730	61	332	n/a
Hepatitis C	299	54	58	11

Subject to UKHSA validation. New defined as new to clinic and not disclosing under care.

What do people say?

‘When I felt unwell and went to the emergency department, it was a life saver – I got diagnosed with HIV and I wouldn’t have known otherwise. The opportunity to be tested meant that I got treatment and was able to carry on with my life. I think testing in A&E is a very proactive thing to do because having the opportunity to have the investigation could potentially save your life, I think it is something that should be offered to everyone.’

Male, 40s.

‘I attended A&E for a completely unrelated reason. I did not see the posters in the waiting room about HIV testing or I feel I may have opted out. I was initially angry about being tested as I felt I had control taken away from me, but after being diagnosed and speaking with the doctors and learning HIV is just a long term manageable condition and with treatment it does not reduce life expectancy, I now feel very grateful I have been diagnosed as I don’t think it’s something I would have been tested for in the near future.’

Male, 50s.

Launch of the First 100 Days report



NHS
England

Search

About us Our work Commissioning **Get involved** Coronavirus

Date published: 29 November, 2022
Date last updated: 29 November, 2022

Download as a PDF

[Prevention, Urgent and emergency care](#)

Emergency department opt out testing for HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C: The first 100 days

Publication

Classification: Official
Publication reference: PR1849

Content

- [1. Foreword](#)
- [2. Executive summary](#)
- [3. Introduction](#)
- [4. Background and case for change](#)
- [5. Project aims, objectives](#)

The HIV Action Plan sets out a programme to achieve the government's commitment that by 2030 we will have achieved zero HIV transmissions in England. We are well underway to achieving this ambition and I believe that emergency department opt out testing in very high areas of diagnosed HIV prevalence will play an important part in helping us to do so. This approach to HIV testing builds upon pilot studies and evaluations undertaken over the past decade. Opt out testing is confirmed to be effective both in identifying and linking to care those people with HIV infection who were unaware of their diagnosis or had become

- Extensive press coverage of the ED BBV testing programme, including The Times, The Guardian, The Evening Standard.
- Great coverage across BBC radio and BBC TV stations, including interviews on BBC TV London News on World AIDS Day.
- Discussions in Parliament on BBV testing , including Penny Mordaunt MP, Leader of the House saying that ED HIV testing should become the norm.

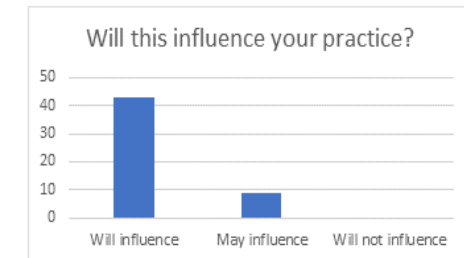
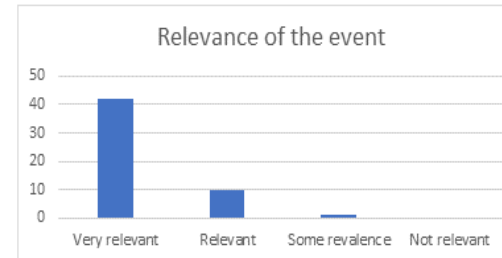
<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/emergency-department-opt-out-testing-for-hiv-hepatitis-b-and-hepatitis-c-the-first-100-days/>

Sharing learning and best practice

**Blood-borne viruses
opt-out testing in
emergency departments
in London:
Good practice guidance**

National Learn and Share event Sept 2022

140 people attended - plenaries and workshops format.
Honest reflections and discussions by implementers
Feedback included:



EUSEM
THE EUROPEAN
EMERGENCY MEDICINE
CONGRESS

15-19 OCTOBER 2022
BERLIN
CityCube Berlin, Germany

www.eusem.org
www.dgina.de

SEVILLA
FAST-TRACK CITIES 2022

BHIVA
British HIV Association

BHIVA WORLD AIDS DAY

Autumn Conference
Friday 25th November 2022
ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS,
LONDON

Critical success factors

- Dedicated HIV / Hepatitis / ED clinicians passionate about ED BBV testing, building on existing testing experience.
- NICE guidance, British HIV Association & British Association for Sexual Health and HIV guidelines recommend ED HIV testing in areas of very high/high diagnosed HIV prevalence.
- Pan London approach led by Ian Jackson, Director of Commissioning, Specialist Commissioning, NHS England – London.
- Partnership with Hepatitis C Elimination programme team to bring BBV approach.
- Coproduction with vibrant and influential community sector.
- Fast Track City initiative partnership already in place.
- Strong focus on sharing learning, challenges and success.
- London BI team allocating resource to support data collection and presentation.

Are you recently diagnosed or having difficulty coming to terms with an HIV diagnosis?

Come to workshops aimed at helping you deal with your diagnosis and gain the knowledge and tools to live well with HIV.

'A safe space to talk without judgement, meeting other people and [getting] important information that I needed to know'

'The team are amazing, wonderful, warm presenters. I feel I have made friends for life and am not alone'

Dates and booking details

Positively UK
Monday 4th, 11th, 18th July 2022
(via zoom) 6 – 8pm
Call 020 7713 0444 or email info@positivelyuk.org

METRO
Saturday 17th September 2022
New Cross SE14 6LE
(in-person) 10am – 4pm
Call 020 8305 5006/07494 497590
or email peersupport@metrocharity.org.uk

Terrence Higgins Trust
Monday 7th, 14th, 21st November 2022
(via zoom) 6 – 8pm
Call 0808 802 1221 or email info@tht.org.uk

What's next?

- Implement full ED BBV opt-out testing in remaining Trusts, ensuring appropriate referral pathways in place.
- Increase uptake of testing to 95% and increase number of ED sites 'blocking' those who have already HIV tested previously.
- Ensure culturally appropriate community support offered to all.
- Roll out webform data collection for data reporting and develop new dashboard.
- UK Health Security Agency developing a twelve month evaluation report due summer 2023.
- BHIVA developing a Rapid Guidance statement on 'Assumed consent'.
- Learn and share event being planned for June 2023.