

USING POINT OF CARE TESTING, SIMPLIFIED ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING AND NURSE/PHARMACIST/ADDICTIONS OFFICER INITIATION OF TREATMENT: RESULTS FROM PHASE 1 OF THE SPRINGBURN MICROELIMINATION PROJECT.

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Background: The Springburn microelimination project seeks to eliminate hepatitis C (HCV) in an area of Glasgow with high rates of socioeconomic deprivation and problem drug use. It utilises point of care (POC) testing to increase screening, alongside multidisciplinary assessment/initiation of treatment, embedded in a community health centre. Phase 1 focuses on those in community alcohol and drug treatment (CAT), phase 2 those previously diagnosed but lost to follow up (not in CAT care) and phase 3 population screening using a home test kit offer.

Description of model of care/intervention: Patients attending Springburn CAT are offered POC testing for HCV (Cepheid Genexpert) and HIV (Oraquick swab) with a view to achieving WHO targets of 90% of patients knowing their HCV status, and 80% of patients with HCV initiated on to treatment. Each clinic day is covered by a team member who can assess and initiate treatment: Drug Service Doctor, Liver Nurse or Pharmacist. Non invasive assessment of fibrosis (FIB4 or Fibroscan), simplified on/post treatment monitoring and pan-genotypic treatments minimise steps in the treatment pathway.

Effectiveness: Baseline and interim results are summarised in the table below:

	Baseline	Interim (month 4) results		
Total registered with CAT clinic	346	319	New	27
			Deceased	7
			Out of care	33
			Moved care	14
Number ever tested (%)	300 (86.7)	295 (92.8%)		
Tested within 12 months (%)	98 (28.3%)	181 (60.0%)		
Last test HCV positive (%)	86 (25%)	66 (20.7%)		
New diagnoses	-	7		
On/post treatment (%)	11 (12.8%)	60 (68%)		

Conclusion and next steps: A combination of POC testing, simplified treatment algorithms and multidisciplinary initiation of treatment leads to high uptake of testing and treatment in a community drug treatment setting. Good progress towards elimination goals has been made in a short period of time. The project is ongoing and updated results will be presented.

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