

# Introducing Hep C Screening to Sexual Health & Contraception NIS

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# Hepatitis C in Tower Hamlets

- Hep C landscape has changed considerably over past 12 months
- NHS England are now funding new Directly Acting Antiviral (DAA) therapies which cure >90% infected patients
- Plan to treat >12,000 in 2017-18
- Tower Hamlets has highest rates of Hepatitis C Virus (HCV)-associated liver cancer in UK
- By curing HCV we reduce the risk of liver cirrhosis, liver cancer and morbidity and mortality
- There is the potential for elimination in this borough within next few years
- That is dependent on a strong testing strategy – identifying, engaging and curing patients

# Tower Hamlets HCV Prevalence

- UK guidelines recommend:
  - Routine HIV testing when the local prevalence is  $>0.2\%$ <sup>1</sup>
  - Targeted HBV and HCV screening <sup>2</sup>
- Prevalence of viral hepatitis approximately 0.5% within the UK.
- **Royal London ED: 3.13% positive (0.63% new)**
- **HepFree Primary Care Migrant Screening Study (ongoing) – approx 1% new diagnoses**
- **Royal London Sexual Health Dept (AKC) – MSMs: 2.3% positive (1.54% new)**



1. British HIV Association. UK Guidelines for HIV testing 2008. 2008. London

2. NICE. Hepatitis B and C: ways to promote and offer testing to people a increased risk of infection. 2013

# Current Infrastructure

- We have already initiated HCV screening in
  - Substance Abuse Unit (SAU)
  - RLH Emergency Department
  - Current Research study “HepFree” screening for HCV in migrants in primary care
  - Targeted HCV screening in sexual health services
  - Targeted HCV screening as part of primary care new registrant / sexual health screen

Going Viral  
Universal testing for HIV/Hep B/Hep C



# HCV tests for Primary Care Health Screening

- HCV Ab tests are now available as part of primary care sexual health screening for
  - New registrants in high risk groups
  - Opportunistic screening of registered patients considered at risk

(in addition to HIV, Chlamydia, Gonorrhoea, Syphilis)

- Incentive = £10 per HCV Ab test
- HCV RNA will be requested in secondary care on positive samples

## Note:

- Additional training for Healthcare Assistants will be provided
- EMIS prompts for patients from high risk countries / ethnicities

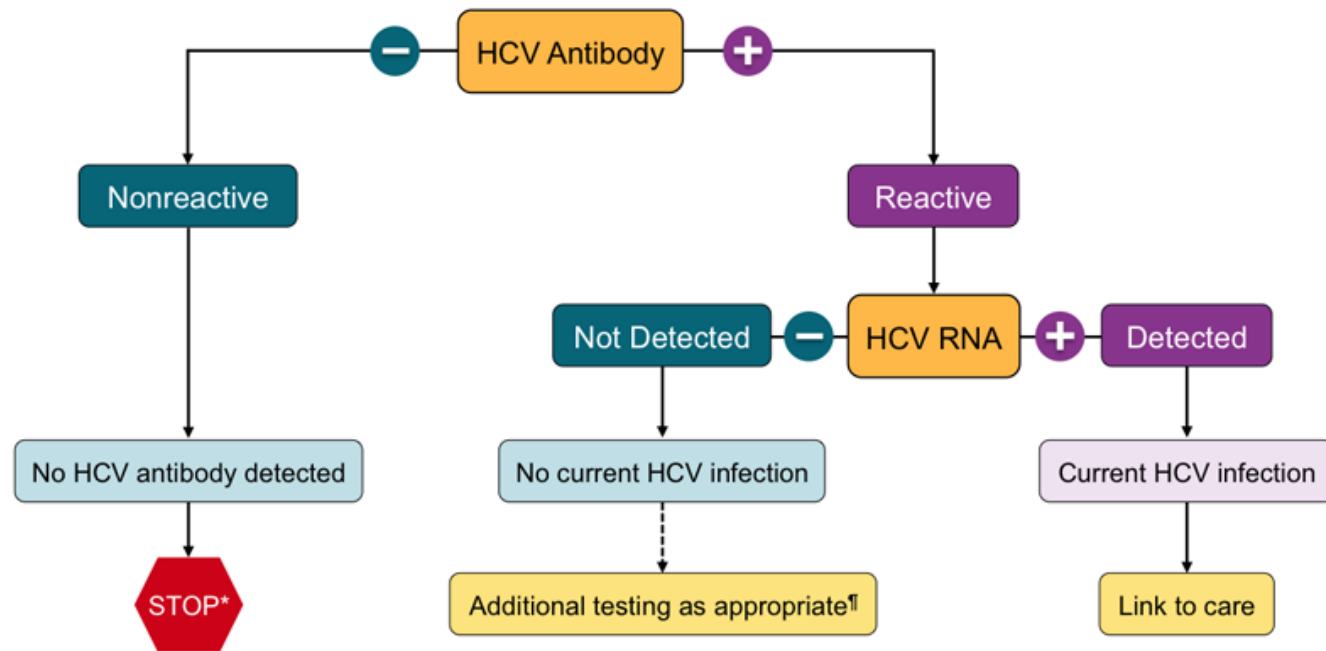
# High risk groups for Hepatitis C

EMIS Prompt will be added for:

- High Prevalence country of origin (ie prevalence of viral hepatitis >2% as per WHO)
  - Includes Africa / East Asia / South East Asia / South America / Eastern Europe
- Ethnicity of above countries
- History of injecting drug use (including steroids)
- HIV positive patients
- Men who have sex with men with previous history of an STI

# Hepatitis C Blood Tests

Recommended Testing Sequence for Identifying Current HCV Infection



Patient attends GP Practice for Sexual Health Check

HCV Ab Positive

Advice to patients until review: no intercourse, do not share razors, toothbrushes.  
Check history of previous Hep C treatment

Referral to Secondary Care - RLH Hepatology  
via Standard referral letter  
(future plans for dedicated NHS.net ref email)

Reviewed at RLH Hep Clinic by  
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RNA +ve

- Genotyping
- Fibroscan
- MDT discussion
- Treated with DAAs
- Risk reduction plan
- Contact screening advice

RNA -ve x 2

- Risk reduction plan
- May require regular sexual health f/u
- Pt discharged to primary care with letter advice to update codes