

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT UNLINKED ANONYMOUS BBV SEROPREVALENCE - 'ENABLE'

A number of NHS Trusts*, Public Health England and Gilead Sciences Limited are engaged in a Joint Working Project to estimate local prevalence of certain blood-borne viruses (BBVs). All parties committed resources to support this project, which commenced in November 2016 and was originally expected to complete within 7 months.

Aims

The aim of this joint working project is to estimate local prevalence of BBVs (HIV, HBV, HCV) by performing an unlinked anonymous seroprevalence survey using residual blood samples (taken for other purposes) from patients attending the Accident and Emergency Department (A&E) at the NHS Trusts*. The samples will be anonymised, with solely the patient's sex, age and ethnicity remaining associated with the sample for epidemiological analysis.

Benefits

Using anonymised samples is a simple but well established public health strategy providing valuable data to inform local BBV epidemiology and health protection decisions. This will enable the NHS Trusts* and Public Health England to determine whether there is a need for the implementation of any testing initiatives in A&E, with an associated clinical care pathway, to identify BBV patients that are undiagnosed or diagnosed but not in care and ensure that they receive the appropriate management for their BBV.

*1.1 Royal Liverpool University Hospital

*1.2 Blackpool Teaching Hospitals

*1.3 Imperial Healthcare Foundation NHS Trust

Outcome: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6972612/>

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