

Joint Working Project

'Get tested LeEDs' – Accident and Emergency Department blood borne virus (HBV, HCV, HIV) optout testing combined with an enhanced rapid care pathway

Leeds Teaching Hospital Trust (LTHT), and Gilead Sciences Limited are engaged in a Joint Working Project to evaluate the feasibility, effectiveness and acceptability of innovative blood borne virus (HIV, HBV and HCV) opt out testing for patients combined with enhanced linkage to care. All parties have committed resources to support this project, which commenced in May 2018 and originally expected to complete 18 months.

Aims

The aim of *Get tested LeEDs Joint Working Project* is to evaluate the feasibility, effectiveness and acceptability of innovative blood borne virus opt-out testing for patients over 16 to 65 years of age having bloods taken at LTHT's A&E Departments combined with an enhanced rapid hepatitis care pathway for patients testing positive for either infection.

Benefits

The expected benefits of the *Get tested LeEDs Joint Working Project* to patients are that all Parties will have a better understanding of the effectiveness and value of routine opt- out blood borne virus testing as part of A&E attendance in high prevalence areas, in combination with an innovative hepatitis care pathway. Patients will benefit from reduced time from viral blood borne virus infection to diagnosis and improved access to specialist care and treatment to prevent disease progression and complications. Earlier diagnosis and care interventions may also prevent onwards transmission. The project will direct public health protection interventions through patient engagement in harm reduction programs and vaccination of at risk individuals.

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