

Joint Working Project

VirA+EmiC – Accident and Emergency Department HBV and HCV opt-out testing combined with an enhanced rapid care pathway

(1) Guy's and St Thomas NHS Foundation Trust, (2) Lambeth Clinical Commissioning Group, (3) Public Health England and Gilead Sciences Limited are engaged in a Joint Working Project to evaluate the feasibility, effectiveness and acceptability of a combination of innovative viral hepatitis (HBV and HCV) opt-out testing for patients.

All parties have committed resources to support this project, which was commenced in October 2016 and originally expected to complete within 12 months.

Aims

The aim of the VirA+EmiC Joint Working Project is to evaluate the feasibility, effectiveness and acceptability of a combination of innovative viral hepatitis (HBV and HCV) opt-out testing for patients over 16 years having bloods taken in St Thomas' Hospital A&E department combined with an enhanced rapid hepatitis care pathway for patients testing positive for either infection.

Benefits

The expected benefits of the VirA+EmiC Joint Working Project to patients are that all Parties will have a better understanding of the effectiveness and value of routine opt-out viral hepatitis 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 hepatitis 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 hepatitis transmission. The project will direct public health protection interventions through patient engagement in harm reduction programs and vaccination of at risk individuals.

Outcome: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/jvh.13676>

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