

DECENTRALISED HCV SHARED CARE: THE SACC PROJECT

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It is estimated that half of all HCV infected individuals in Denmark have not been diagnosed, and fewer have entered clinical care and treatment. The majority of HCV infected individuals in Denmark are people who inject drugs (PWID). Individual barriers, as well as the physical and organisational divide between the drug treatment centres, that are responsible for HCV testing, counselling and opioid substitution therapy of PWID, and the hospitals, that are responsible for clinical evaluation and treatment of hepatitis C, have resulted in a low number of HCV infected PWID at each step of the HCV treatment cascade, from screening to treatment. The aim of the Shared Addiction Care Copenhagen (SACC) project is to overcome some of these barriers through development and implementation of a model for shared hepatitis C care between the drug treatment centres and two clinics for infectious diseases in Copenhagen, Denmark. All clients enrolled in the 11 drug treatment centres in Copenhagen, are offered HCV testing, clinical evaluation (incl. fibroscanning) and treatment at the drug treatment centres. Prescription of HCV treatment and monitoring of treatment outcome is still the responsibility of the infectious diseases specialists, whereas the drug treatment centres are responsible for dispensing HCV medicine and ensuring treatment compliance. To create overview of the individual patient and the entire population, a shared database has been developed where data from all relevant existing databases are merged in real-time. The shared care model has been implemented and evaluated in three pilot drug treatment centres and is undergoing validation in the eight remaining drug treatment centres.