



## Workshop 2

**Friday Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> 8.30-10.**

**Venue: København**

### **HCV prevention – what works and what doesn't?**

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#### **Workshop overview**

The goal of this workshop is to discuss how to bridge research and harm reduction practice as it relates to safe injection and HCV prevention. Research consistently shows that safe injection (avoiding shared use of syringes, cookers, cottons, rinse water, etc.) and enrolment in opiate substitution treatment will prevent HCV infection, and that combining these can reduce the risk of infection by 50%. However, implementing these interventions to achieve this impact on HCV incidence remains a challenge. In some cases, there is a wide gap between the results of research studies (e.g., full harm reduction or 100% of syringes from NSP/SEP) and the practice of harm reduction in the community. Barriers such as funding, agency capacity, and criminalization of drug use and PWID contribute to this gap. Research needs to be more closely linked to practical application and the development of transferable practice guidelines and interventions.

Collaboration between researchers, harm reduction service providers and the community is needed to improve coverage (the number of syringes, cookers, etc. per PWID per year), and to support advocacy and policy change to remove obstacles to HCV prevention.

#### **References**

1. Palmateer N, et al., Rapid Decline in HCV Incidence among People Who Inject Drugs Associated with National Scale-Up in Coverage of a Combination of Harm Reduction Interventions. PLOS One 2014; 9: e104515.
2. Pouget R, et al., Meta-analysis of hepatitis C seroconversion in relation to shared syringes and drug preparation equipment. Addiction, 2013; 107: 1057–1065.

#### **Please give a short description of the workshop form.**

The workshop will begin with a very brief overview of the research to practice gap. We then invite workshop participants to share their experiences – as harm reduction experts, community members, policy makers and researchers – related to HCV prevention practice and research. Examples of successful and less successful collaborations are welcome, to arrive at conclusions and recommendations to guide future studies. Discussion of the role of and practical development and implementation of research programmes; strategies to include practitioners and community in the development of research design, addressing e.g. barriers to safe injection facilities; the distribution and uptake of cookers, cottons and rinse water at syringe exchange programs; the interface between



substance use treatment and syringe exchange/needle syringe programs; strategies to address “harmful policing” in the community; and reaching and teaching new injectors to learn to inject safely will be facilitated. Examples of useful methods of disseminating research results to communities will also be noted.

**At the end of this workshop, participants should be able to:**

1. Describe challenges related to implementing HCV prevention
2. List ways to promote better collaboration between research and harm reduction.
3. List critical research questions related to current harm reduction practice to reduce HCV risk.

**Please advise of any resources that will be provided to participants, if applicable:**

- Printed hand-outs
- Power Point presentation
- Online
- Additional resources, please indicate: [Click here to enter text.](#)