

HIV in Europe Newsletter

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Evaluation of the ECDC Guidance HIV testing: increasing uptake and effectiveness in the European Union

In 2010, ECDC published the guidance *HIV testing: increasing uptake and effectiveness in the European Union*. In consideration of the recent developments in this field, ECDC is considering to update the guidance in 2016. As preparatory work, an evaluation of the impact of the 2010 guidance in the EU/EEA is conducted by HIV in Europe. The evaluation consists of online surveys and focus group discussions which will take place during the European AIDS Conference in Barcelona in October. **HIV in Europe is excited to work with ECDC and conduct this important evaluation** of the 2010 testing guidance.

If you work with HIV testing and guidance development/implementation as a national level policy maker, technical advisor or expert, or with HIV testing in an NGO, Professional Body, Learned Society or International Agency HIV in Europe would **greatly appreciate your participation**. It takes approximately 20 minutes to complete the survey which can be found **here** (http://hiveurope.eu/ECDC_Evaluation). If you are interested in participating in a focus group discussion at EACS, please let us know by sending an e-mail to hie.rigshospitalet@regionh.dk.

European HIV-Hepatitis Testing Week 2015

The 2015 European HIV-Hepatitis Testing Week will again take place during the last week of **November from 20 to 27**.

This year the scope of the week has expanded to also include **viral hepatitis** to further strengthen the collaboration between the two fields of viral hepatitis and HIV and present a united and stronger front to respond to the serious public health concerns that these infectious diseases pose. Again this year, participating partners plan which activities they undertake, including whether they wish to include viral hepatitis in their programme. So far 267 participants have signed up for testing week, if you/your organisation is interested in participating you can **sign up here**.

You can also join the European HIV-Hepatitis Testing Week Thunderclap campaign. Show your support at <http://thndr.it/1VdjbWh>

HIV in Europe at the 15th European AIDS Conference (21-24 October)

Poster presentations

We are pleased to announce that several posters will be presented. There will be five posters from OptTEST and one poster on the results from HIDES 2:

1. PE21/28 *Ongoing Mononucleosis-like Illness - A Clear Indicator Condition for HIV Testing: Results from the HIDES 2 Study - Single Arm Extension*
D Raben et al.
2. PE10/4 *Impact of Decentralized Drug Purchase on Antiretroviral Treatment Costs in Spain*
Y. Rivero-Montesdeoca et al.
3. PE15/22 *Evaluation of HIV Testing Recommendations In Specialty Guidelines for the Management of HIV Indicator Conditions*



OptTEST

One year has passed since OptTEST by HiE started in July 2014 and the first annual technical and financial report was submitted to [Chafea](#) in August 2015.

OptTEST by HiE was one of the nine projects funded by the European Commission presented at CHAFAEA Health Programme symposium “Doing the right things right – Guidance, Standards and Quality in the European response to HIV and co-infections” at the AIDS Impact conference in Amsterdam, 28-31 July 2015. You can find the presentation on the OptTEST website [here](#). The OptTEST Steering Committee will meet face-to-face at [EACS](#) and the project will also be represented at the EATG booth at EACS.



E. Lord et al.

4. PE21/15 *Linkage to Care Following HIV Diagnosis in Europe: A Review of the Literature*
S. Croxford et al.

5. PE21/30 *Healthcare Related Costs of Missed Opportunities for HIV Diagnosis: A Potential Driver to Increase Indicator Condition Guided HIV Testing*
C. Rae et al.

6. PE22/8 *Direct Costs of HIV/AIDS Care in Estonia*
L. Lemsalu et al.

HIV in Europe Stand

HIV in Europe will be represented at the EATG stand. Come visit us and hear more about all the exciting ongoing projects. At the stand we will hand out information materials (leaflets, brochures, articles, newsletters, postcards etc.) and you can also sign up for the European HIV-Hepatitis Testing Week and fill in our ECDC Guidance evaluation survey. We look forward to see you there!

Steering Committee Meeting

The HIV in Europe Steering Committee will meet at EACS on

Wednesday 21
October from 11.00-
15.00. During this
meeting many
important future
steps will be
discussed. These
include involving new
members of the HIV
in Europe Steering
Committee, name
change, new projects
for 2016 and
budget.

ChemSex Forum

On behalf of the
ChemSex Forum
Steering we would
like to announce the
**European ChemSex
Forum** with front line
staff training for **6 - 8
April 2016** at the
Congress Centre in
London. Among the
objectives for this
meeting are to
Develop international
networks/dialogue;
Identify trends both
in ChemSex use and
response; Inform
practice; Stimulate
dialogue within the
community and raise
community
engagement
and Empower the
community to self-
care specifically
relative to ChemSex.

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