

ELIMINATE

Hepatitis C
**FOR ONCE
AND FOR ALL**



STEP 01

STEP 02

SEEK

TREAT

2030

The elimination of Hepatitis C has the potential to be one of the success stories of medicine! Curative treatments have been developed that make the elimination of the virus an attainable goal.

In 2016, member states of the World Health Organisation (WHO) unanimously adopted a resolution declaring that viral hepatitis should be eliminated by 2030, with agreed targets of reducing new infections by 90% and mortality by 65%, within this timeframe.

The Irish Government committed to this important Public Health initiative, signing up to achieve the WHO Hepatitis C Elimination goals and committing a €30 million annual budget to find and treat adequate numbers of people each year.

The National Hepatitis C Treatment Programme (NHCTP) office was setup to deliver a strategic plan and to oversee the annual achievement of Hepatitis C elimination treatment targets.

We can eliminate Hepatitis C For once and for all

But now we need real commitment to increased screening and treatment in the community.

- Ireland identified Hepatitis C as a key public health priority and committed to the WHO elimination goals to eliminate this disease by 2030. If current low screening and treatment rates continue this will not be achievable.
- Despite initial strong government commitment, Ireland has fallen significantly behind our elimination targets. Based on current treatment rates Ireland will not now eliminate Hepatitis C until 2049, in contrast to many of our European counterparts.
- Mathematical modelling has shown that we are treating less than half the number of patients required to achieve elimination.
- Although the National Hepatitis C screening guidelines were launched in 2017, recommended increased screening of at-risk populations has not been implemented and diagnosis rates have actually declined in recent years, despite many undiagnosed people still being out there.
- To get back on track for elimination, these screening guidelines need to be fully implemented to reach all those infected with Hepatitis C.
- Furthermore, a robust elimination plan is required with measurable objectives and targets, moving from a centralised hospital model to an integrated multidisciplinary community model, bringing screening and treatment to where people are. These have been widely identified as critical success factors in the path to elimination of Hepatitis C.
- These success factors have been adopted in countries such as Scotland and Australia which are on track to achieve elimination by 2030.
- Ireland's elimination plan has so far been focused on a phased approach, mainly limiting access to treatment to the acute hospital setting. Moving from the acute to a community-based model will also support the Sláinte Care vision "to keep people well in their own communities for as long as possible" (DOH, 2019).

Eliminate Hepatitis C

For once and for all

YOUR POLITICAL COMMITMENT AND SUPPORT IS ESSENTIAL TO HELP REALISE THE OPPORTUNITY OF ELIMINATING HEPATITIS C **FOR ONCE** AND **FOR ALL**

We can meet the WHO elimination targets as our European neighbours are doing, but it requires increased effort from the HSE.

We need your immediate support and commitment to ensure this happens.

We are asking your party to ensure that the key strategies outlined below are core to your health policy and are included in your manifesto.

We must:

- **Transform the implementation of Ireland's Hepatitis C elimination strategy into a robust community and Public Health programme:** Ireland needs to stop restricting treatment to hospitals and urgently move to an expansive, non-restrictive screening and treatment model in all appropriate community care settings, including homeless services and prisons. We need increased Public Health involvement to ensure that we reach all living with this disease.
- **Initiate an annual reporting programme to policymakers to measure implementation progress:** *What gets measured gets done.* We need improved planning and diligence to sustain screening and treatment effort each year in line with the annual resource investment (€30 million annual ring fenced budget).
- **Ensure rapid scale-up to get ahead of new infection transmission:** Ireland's current efforts will see us running to standstill unless numbers cured get ahead of new cases. There is a significant body of evidence demonstrating that the cost-saving way to eliminate Hep C is to rapidly scale up screening and treatment combined with harm reduction efforts, to drive a real decline in the disease.

The National Hep C Treatment Programme needs to be accountable to deliver this rapid scale up. Targets must be ambitious, like Scotland, for example, which has targeted and is treating 3000 patients each year.

- **Make Hepatitis C Elimination an exemplar for Sláinte Care:** If executed properly, the Hepatitis C programme could be a shining light for Sláinte Care, removing an unnecessary burden in hospitals and evolving care to where it will be more effective and acceptable for people infected with Hepatitis C.
- **Please support us in this effort! Health equity.**

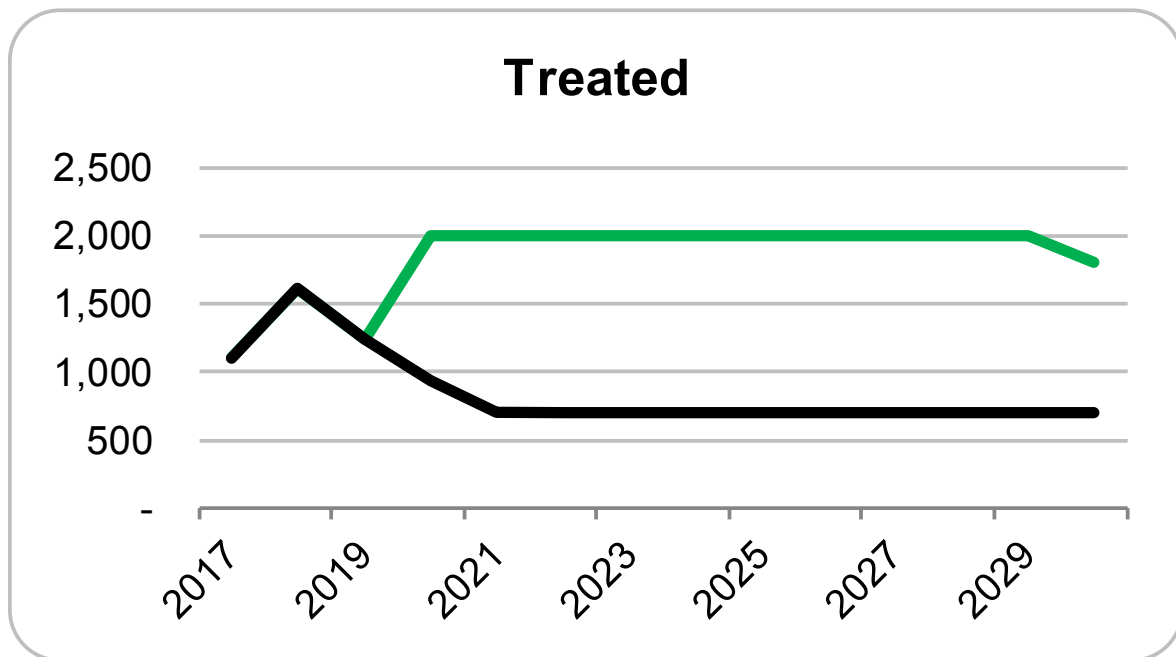
Be a champion for Hepatitis C elimination in your community, for your community!

Sign up now to learn how.

Call Lisa on 0879589223 | Email info@hepinfo.ie | Go to hepinfo.ie

This is the Public Health Threat We Can Eliminate

Absolute minimum treatment numbers required to Eliminate Hepatitis C by 2030



A minimum of 2000 patients need to be treated annually to eliminate Hepatitis C by 2030. A more rapid scale up will ensure more equitable access for all patients, result in faster elimination and will be more cost effective over time.

Eliminate Hepatitis C For Once and For All. By 2030

Be a champion for Hepatitis C elimination

Contact: Lisa Robson | lisa@hepinfo.ie | Hepatitis C Partnership

www.hepinfo.ie

#seektreat2030



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<https://www.facebook.com/communityresponseirl>

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- Australia's Fifth National Hepatitis C Strategy 2018-2022
- Australia's progress toward hepatitis c elimination- annual report 2019
- Scotland's Hepatitis C Action plan - achievements of the first decade and proposals for a Scottish Government strategy 2019 for the elimination of both infection and disease
- The Hepatitis C trust - Eliminating Hepatitis C in Scotland : A Call to Action