

**Partners:**  
**Germany, Finland, Portugal, Romania**

**Inventory of effective interventions**

**Workstream 2 - Heike Zurhold**

1

# Objectives

Summarise evidence for key interventions for HCV prevention

Analyse the implementation of HCV testing, counselling and referral to treatment in selected European regions

Produce knowledge about obstacles and barriers in implementation

Increase awareness amongst staff members working with drug users about opportunities to address risks related to hepatitis C infections

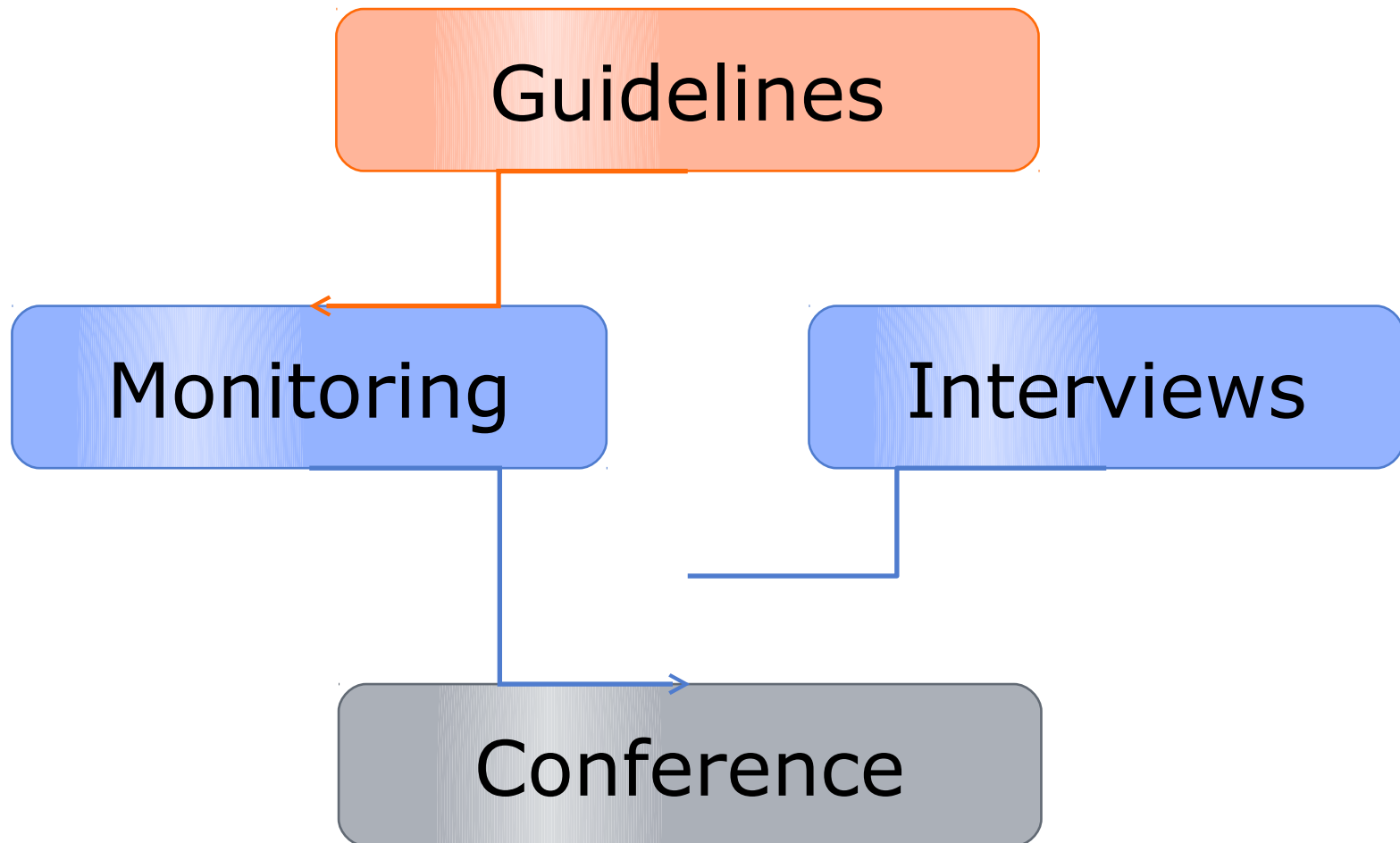
# Rationale

- Testing for HCV and referral to HCV treatment are key interventions
- In practice testing rates are low, except from substitution treatment
- PWUD are often not aware about risk of HCV infection
- Low-threshold services assume that most PWUD are tested in prison

## THUS

HCV testing needs to be increased in particular in low-threshold services

# Main activities

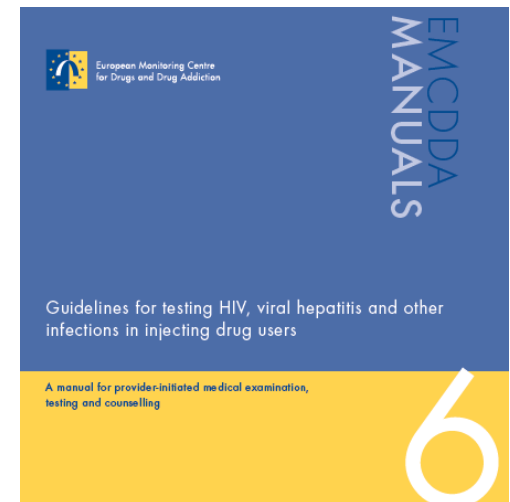
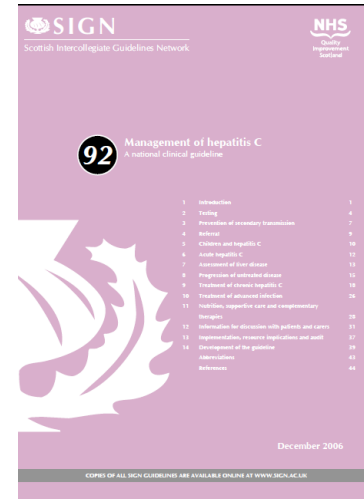


# Guidelines

- Compilation of the most recent guidelines for HCV testing and antiviral treatment

## Aim

- Guidelines as indicators for assessment and evaluation of good practice in HCV testing, pre- and post-test counselling and referral to treatment services
- Delivered to active drug users



# Monitoring



- Tool for low-threshold services to monitor current procedures for
  - hepatitis C-related counselling
  - testing and
  - if indicated referral to treatment
- Main questions
  - Which drug users are tested for hepatitis C?
    - Reasons for testing, number of clients tested
  - Is testing routinely combined with pre-and post-test counselling?
    - Number of clients informed about test result
  - What happened after testing in case of negative or positive test result?
    - Advice for further testing, follow-up of those infected

# Interviews - staff

- In services which implemented the monitoring tool
- Qualitative face-to-face interviews

## Objective

- To identify possible barriers to testing and referral to treatment
- at different levels
  - Structure - limited staff
  - Economic - limited funding for testing
  - Individual - clients not want to get tested

# Interviews - drug users

Interviews with 50 clients of the low-threshold drug services

Method: Structured questionnaire

Access: through services that participate in the monitoring

Topics:

- risk awareness and risk behaviour

- previous HCV testing

- willingness to uptake HCV testing

- experiences with pre- and post-test counselling

- acceptance of HCV treatment



# Conference

Local expert meeting

Presentation and discussion of main results

Recommendations for implementation of good practice

Overall aim:

Increase awareness for testing as measure for HCV prevention

Increase knowledge about effectiveness of HCV treatment among active drug users

# Expected results

Increase awareness for uptake of testing

Explore barriers to testing and treatment among staff and drug users

Comparable data on perspectives of drug users

Assess adherence to guidelines for diagnosis and management of HCV