

GUIDELINES FOR SERVICES PROVIDING INJECTING EQUIPMENT

Professor Avril Taylor
Chair, Guidelines Development


Relevant Actions from Hepatitis C Action Plan for Scotland Phase II

- **Action 14:**

"national guidelines for services providing injection equipment to injecting drug users will be developed. A Guideline Development Group will be established"
(p18 and p44)

- **Action 15:**

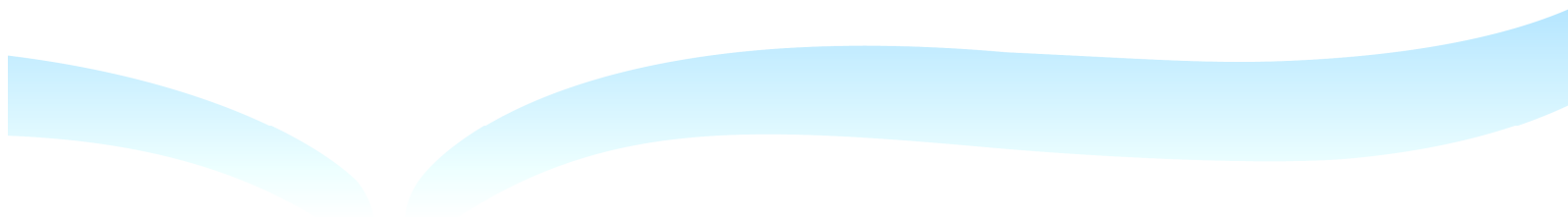
Services providing injection equipment (needles/ syringes and other injection paraphernalia) will be improved in accordance with the guidelines.... Improvements will be made in terms of the quantity..., quality....and nature of provision (p19 and p44).





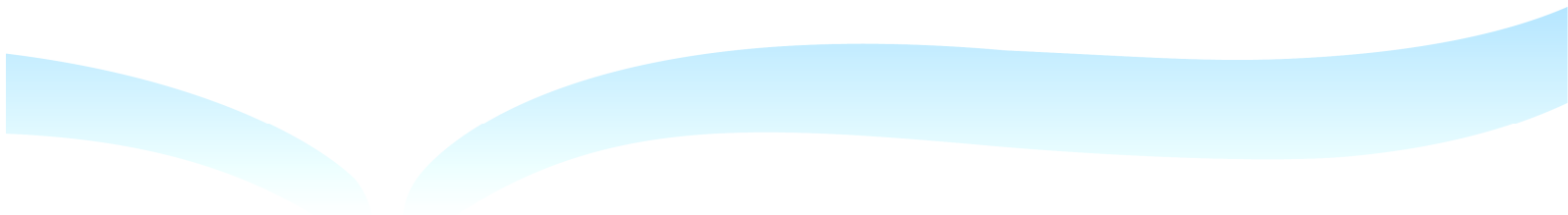
Guideline Development Group

- 18 experts from Scotland
- Scottish Government, Pharmacists, NHS Boards, HPS, Scottish Prison Service, ISD, voluntary and academic sectors, SAADAT
- 4 meetings – first in July 2008



How Guidelines were Developed

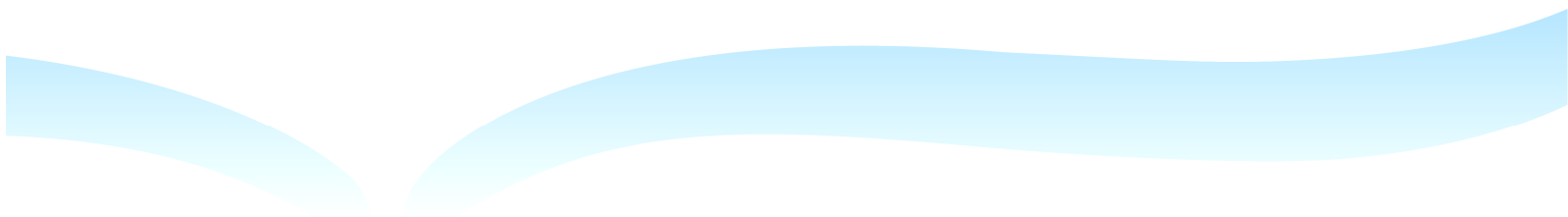
- Remit specified following scope in Action Plan – *"quantity, quality, nature"*
- Review of evidence – nature and extent of current provision, Scottish needs, review-led evidence on impact of services
- Expert opinion





Aim of the Guidelines

- To provide a consistent framework which can be used across Scotland to support the delivery of IEP services.




Remit of Guidelines

Remit

- The provision of needles, syringes and other injecting paraphernalia to people who inject opioids, stimulants and other illicit substances.

Outwith Remit

- Young people less than 16 years of age
 - Non-injecting illicit substance users
 - Medically prescribed injectors e.g. diabetics
- 



Who the Guidelines are for

- Those with responsibility for planning, commissioning and delivering IEP services



The Guidelines

Sections 1-2

- **Section 1: Developing an IEP programme** – makes **4** recommendations related to the process of developing and reviewing local injection equipment provision:
needs assessment; types of IEP services (e.g pharmacy, specialist, outreach etc.); needs of all IDUs, opening times
- **Section 2: Increasing the distribution of injection equipment** – **4** recommendations focus on increasing the quantity of injection equipment (both sterile needles *and* other injecting paraphernalia) that IEP services give out:
one N/S per injection; one set per injection of other paraphernalia (acidifiers, cookers, filters, water, swabs); secondary distribution; methods for syringe identification

The Guidelines

Sections 3-4

- **Section 3: Improving the effectiveness and consistency of IEP services** – makes **5** recommendations aimed at improving the quality of IEP services, particularly in relation to the way services interact with their clients:

training for all IEP staff; identifying and responding to clients' needs; service user education; client feedback; monitoring, evaluation and audit

- **Section 4: Integrating IEP services with other services** – **2** recommendations aimed at promoting more integrated care for injecting drug users, particularly for those who are infected with HCV:

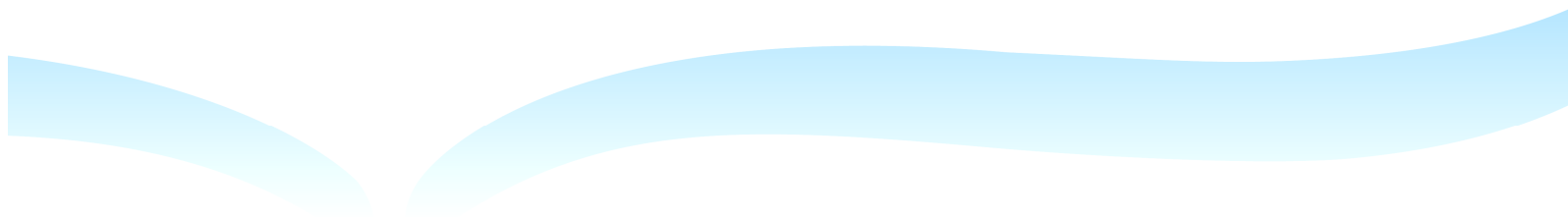
BBV testing and vaccination for clients; improving integration between IEP services and other services



The Guidelines

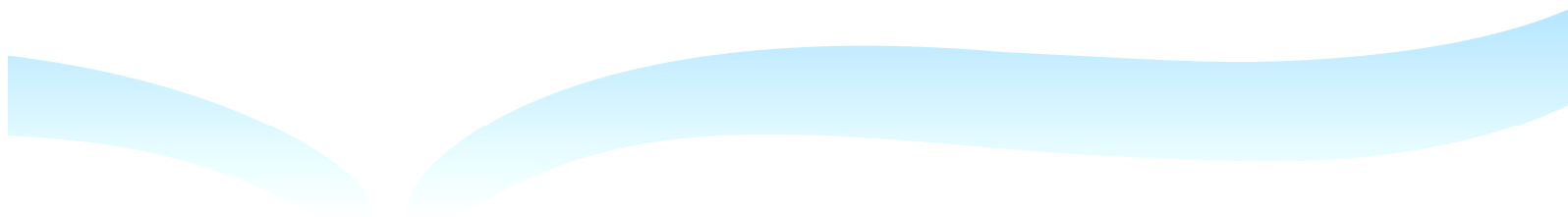
Section 5

- Section **5: Health and safety of staff, clients and the community** – makes **2** recommendations which aim to protect the health and safety of staff and to promote safe disposal of used injection equipment:
ensuring safe disposal of used equipment; Hep B vaccination for all IEP staff




Consultation Process

- Interim Guidelines sent out for consultation February 2009
- Wide range of stakeholders
- 17 responses – DATs, service user groups, NHS Board, ACPOS, pharmacy organisations, LA



Consultation Responses

Respondents very positive and welcomed the Guidelines – in particular:

- The adoption of “Injecting Equipment Provision (IEP) services to replace “needle exchange
 - The principal aim of making it possible for every IDU to use a sterile set of injecting equipment for each injection
 - The role set out for community pharmacies and the recognition that specialist services could be provided within pharmacies
 - The importance of the role of service users in the development of services
- 



Future plans

- Final document in preparation
- Send to Scottish Government
- Guidelines published June/July 2009

