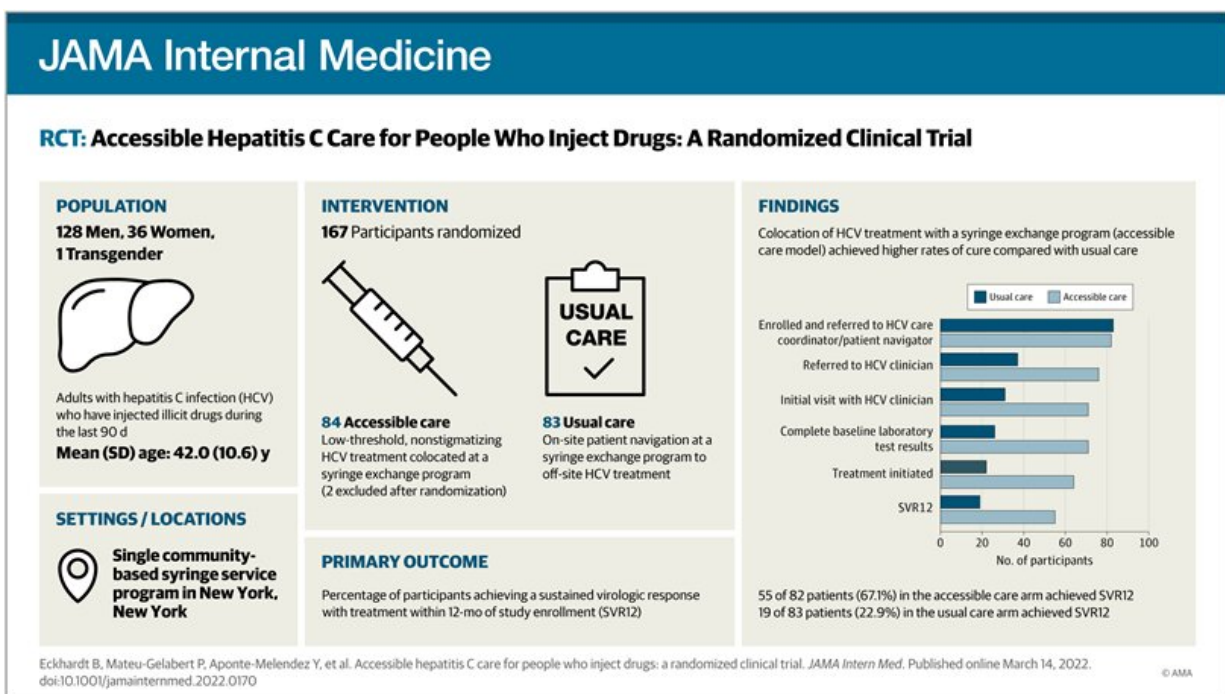


Accessible care model more effective than usual care in curing hepatitis C in people who inject drugs

March 24 2022



Graphical abstract. Credit: *JAMA Internal Medicine* (2022). DOI: 10.1001/jamainternmed.2022.0170

A study by CUNY SPH researchers, in close partnership with colleagues from Weill Cornell Medicine and NYU School of Medicine, suggests that treating people who inject drugs for hepatitis C infection using the

accessible care model, which is characterized by low-threshold, nonstigmatizing care co-located in a syringe service program, is more effective than the usual care model, in which patients are referred to local clinicians.

To compare the accessible care model with usual care, Associate Professor Pedro Mateu-Gelabert and colleagues conducted a randomized clinical trial at the Lower East Side Harm Reduction Center, a syringe service program in Manhattan, and included 167 participants who were hepatitis C–positive and had injected drugs during the prior 90 days.

Sixty-seven percent of participants who received accessible care treatment versus 23 percent of those who received usual care were cured of the hepatitis C virus, which was a significant difference.

The results suggest that the accessible care model provides a framework for developing [treatment programs](#) geared toward engaging, treating, and curing hepatitis C infection in people who inject drugs.

"This study proves people who inject drugs can successfully engage in Hepatitis C treatment when the services are provided in a non-stigmatizing manner, in a place where they feel welcome and adapted to their life circumstances," says Pedro Mateu-Gelabert. "I believe 'Accessible Care' is a health care delivery model that could be successfully replicated in addressing other pressing health care needs of people who use drugs."

The study is published in *JAMA Internal Medicine*.

More information: Eckhardt B et al, Accessible Hepatitis C Care for People Who Inject Drugs, *JAMA Internal Medicine* (2022). [DOI: 10.1001/jamainternmed.2022.0170](https://doi.org/10.1001/jamainternmed.2022.0170). [jamanetwork.com/journals/jamai.../fullarticle/2790054](https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamai/fullarticle/2790054)

Provided by The City University of New York

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