



**The Association of Greater Manchester
Primary Care Trusts**

Public Health Directorate
4th Floor, London House
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Manchester
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12th February 2010

Dear Colleague,

Hepatitis C Awareness event in Greater Manchester for Primary Healthcare Professionals

I would like to invite you to a special hepatitis C awareness event for primary healthcare professionals, which will take place on Tuesday 16th March 2010 from 6pm to 9pm at The City of Manchester Stadium, Rowsley Street, Manchester M11 3FF. A buffet supper will be provided.

The purpose of this event is to help raise your awareness of hepatitis C, as primary care can play a crucial role in increasing the detection and diagnosis of the virus. This is important, as there is effective treatment available to prevent progression to serious liver disease.

At the event, there will be a presentation on the Department of Health's national hepatitis C awareness campaign for healthcare professionals and the public, including former injecting drug users and the South Asian community which are key at-risk groups¹.

The Keynote Speaker at the event is **Mr. Abdul Razzaq, Director of Public Health at NHS Trafford**. There will be a Clinical Presentation from a Hepatologist from Manchester Royal Infirmary, who will describe local services and pathways into care. Siobhan Fahey, the manager of the Association of Greater Manchester PCT's Hepatitis C Strategy, will describe its implementation and Shabana Begum, South Asian Projects Manager for the Hepatitis C Trust and ambassador for the Department of Health campaign, will discuss hepatitis C from a patient's point of view.

Certificate of attendance will be available towards two hours of CPD for all professionals.

Please mark this date and time in your diaries. Full details of the agenda and venue will be sent to you once you have confirmed your attendance to Dot Hynes on dot.hynes@hmr.nhs.uk or telephone 0161 655 7464.

I look forward to meeting you and count on your active participation.

Yours sincerely

Dr Sheila Will

Director of Public Health NHS Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale
Lead Director of Public Health for the Greater Manchester Hepatitis C Strategy

¹ There is a separate campaign for current injecting drug users and drugs workers co-ordinated by the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse – www.harmreductionworks.org.uk