



# HEPCARE EUROPE

Project Grant Coordination

Prof Walter Cullen, Professor of Urban General Practice,  
University College Dublin on behalf of Hepcare Europe  
Consortium

# Outline

- ↳ Project structure
- ↳ Findings & Impacts
- ↳ Lessons learned & advice for prospective applicants



# Outline



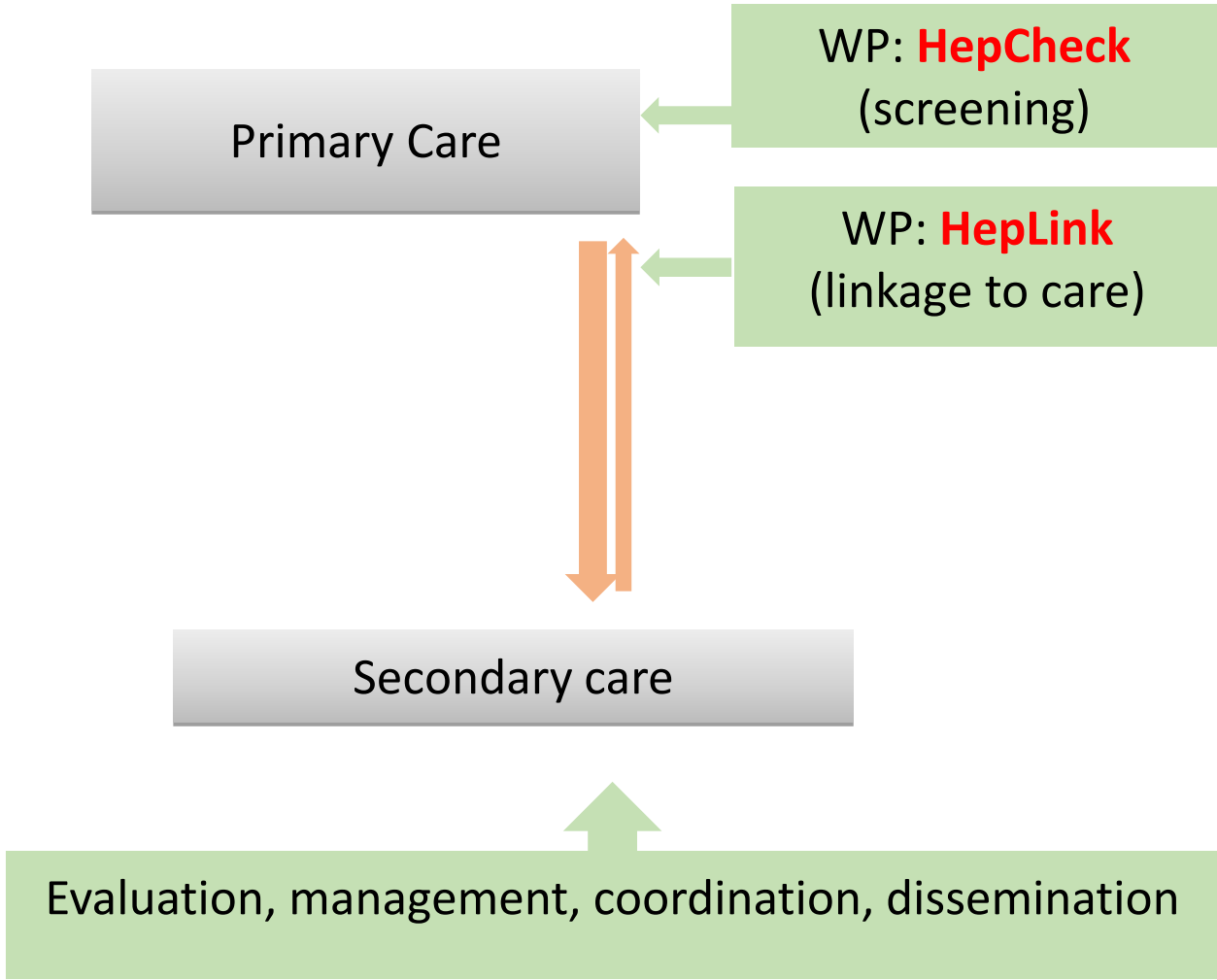
- Four sites (Dublin, Bucharest, North London, Seville)
- 2016-19
- Recent developments in screening, assessment, treatment
- Integrated model of care required
- Many unaware of infection
- Few had received treatment

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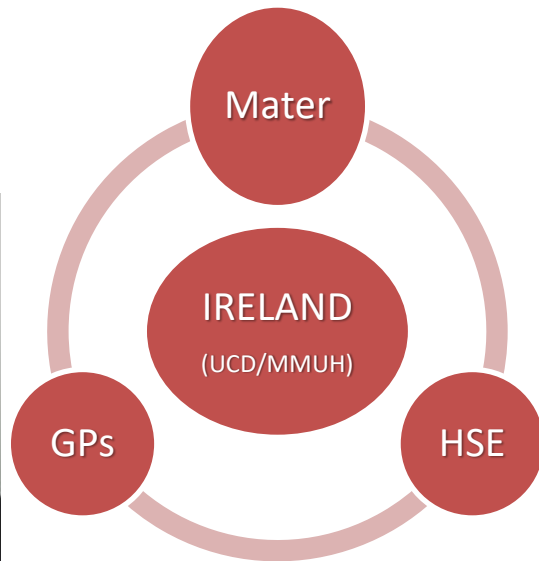


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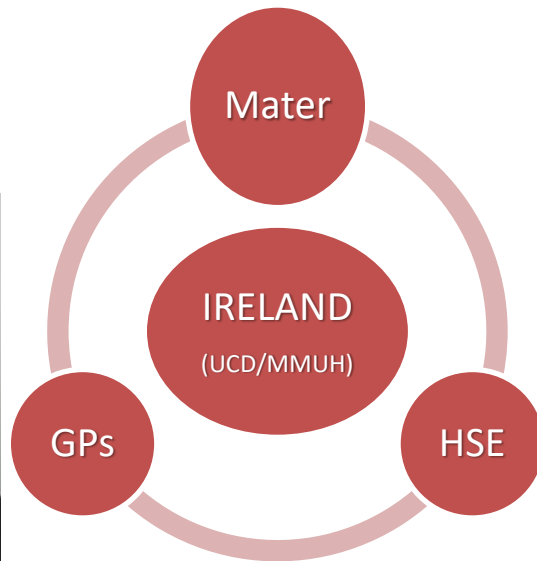
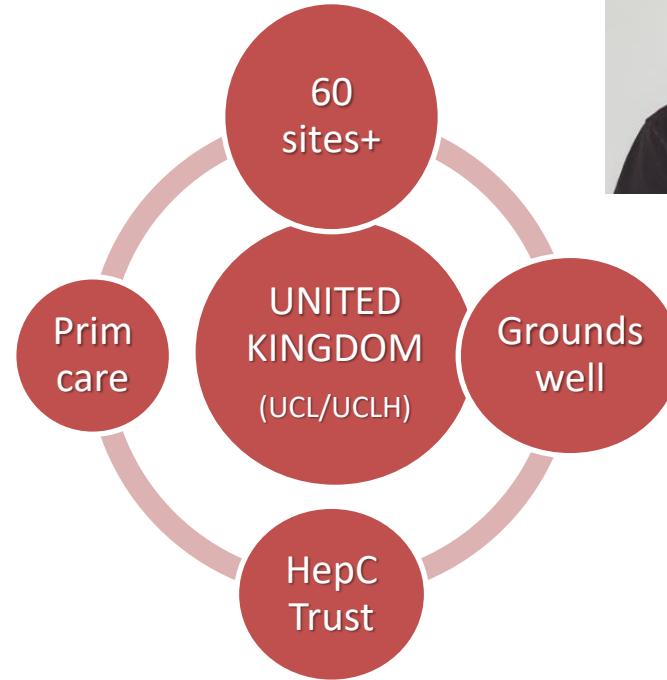
# HEPCARE: New Model of Care



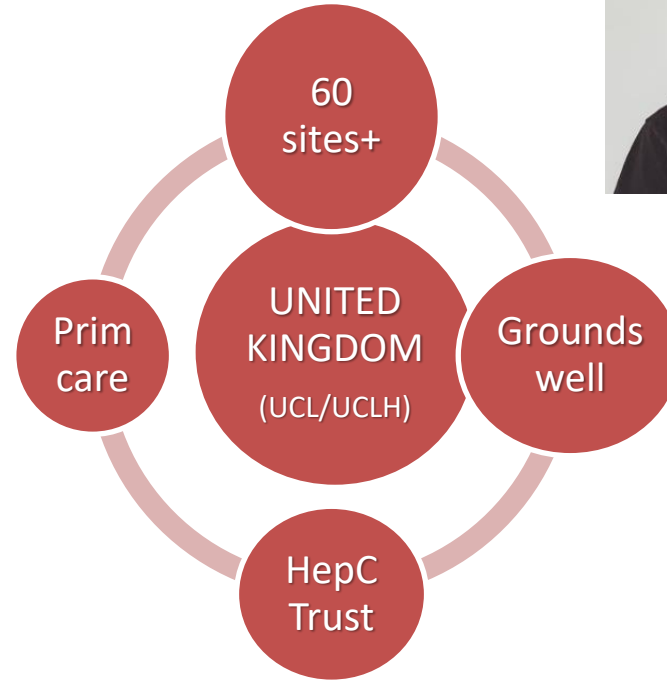
# Clinical networks



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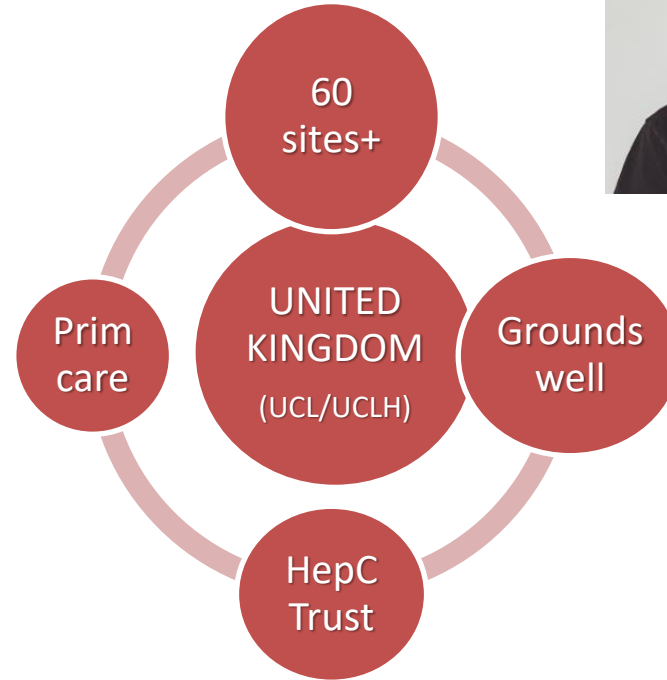


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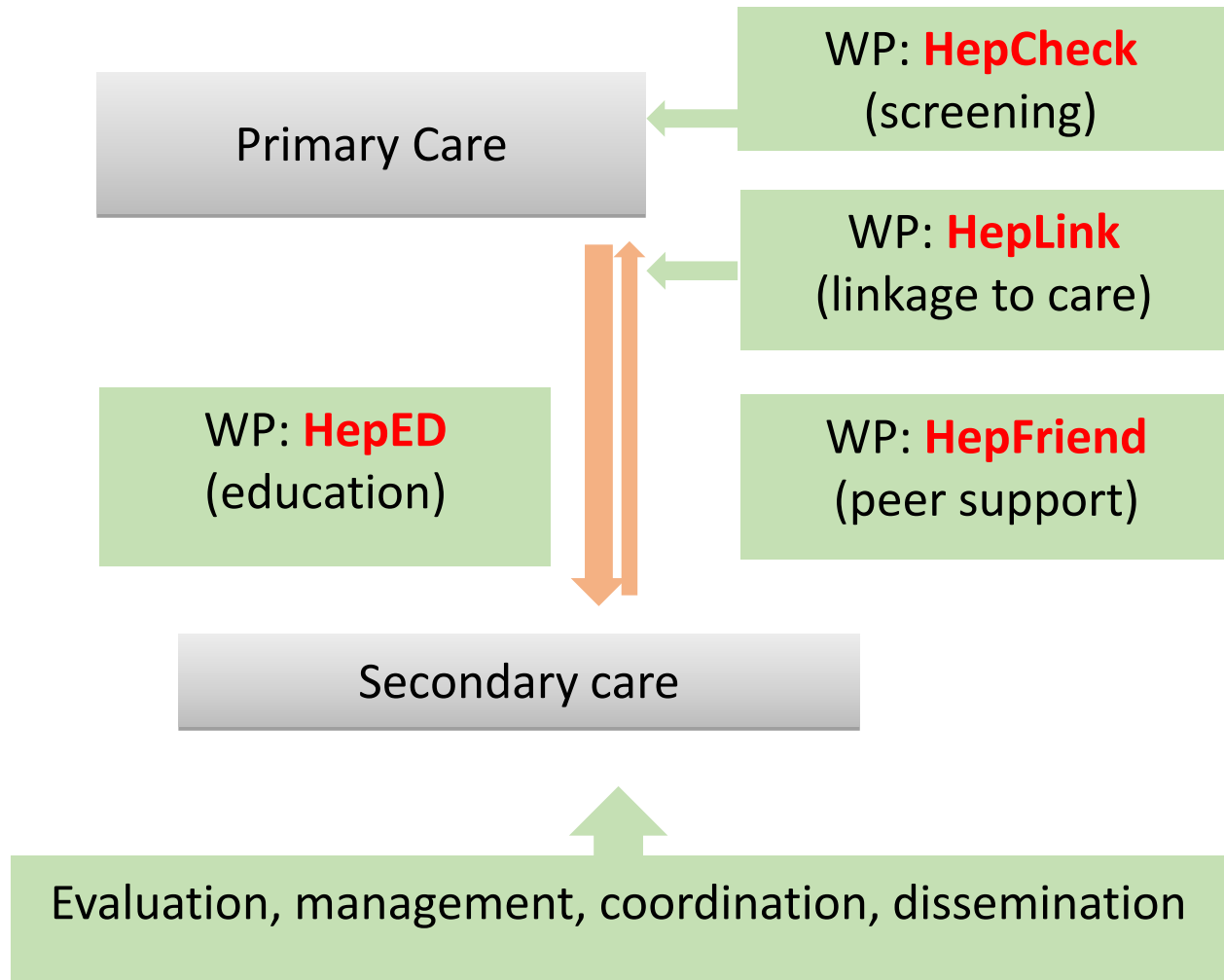
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# HEPCARE: New Model of Care



# Key findings:

- 🍃 2608 participants recruited across 218 clinical sites
- 🍃 HCV antibody test results obtained for 2568; 1074(42%) antibody-positive, 650(60%) linked to care, 319(43%) started treatment; 196(61%) of treatment initiates achieved Sustained Viral Response (SVR) at dataset closure
- 🍃 Qualitative study stakeholders' perspectives: addressed loss to follow up, improved treatment access, HCV education.



Avramovic et al, Int J Inf Dis, 2020; Glaspy et al, BMC Inf Dis, 2021.

# Key findings:

- 🍃 HepFriend initiative cost-effective, with mean ICER of £9408/QALY
- 🍃 Participants ‘strongly agreed’ / ‘agreed’ that Masterclass helped appreciate role of integrated services in ‘management of patients with HCV’ (and) importance of designated nurse to liaise with hospital services
- 🍃 Peer support workers (as part of specialist outreach team) helped identify people exposed to HCV, engage with treatment, maintain high rates of treatment success

Ward et al, J Antimicrob Chem, 2019; McCombe et al J Antimicrob Chem, 2019; Surey et al; J Antimicrob Chem, 2019.

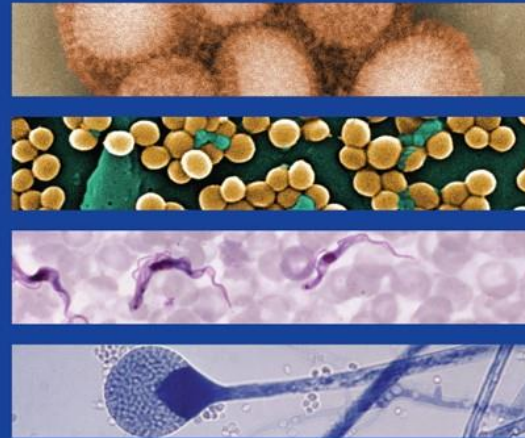


# Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy

Supplement 5

HepCare Europe: towards integrated hepatitis C care  
in the European Union

JAC



[academic.oup.com/jac](http://academic.oup.com/jac)



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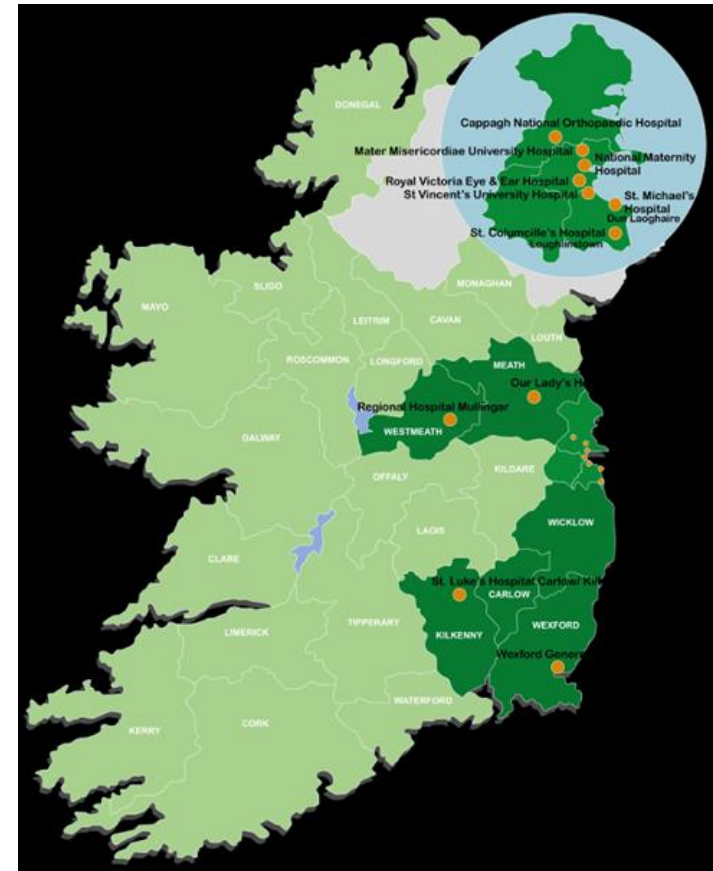
**HEPCARE**  
EUROPE





# Impact: Ireland

- Linked up stakeholders
- Contributed to policy regionally (hospital group) and nationally (clinical programmes)





# Impact: Romania

- Absence of health insurance, unique identifiers, health cards were key barriers
- Hepcare, esp peer support, addressed issues



# Impact: Spain

- 🌿 Improvement on existing model of care
- 🌿 Replicated at other centres in Spain



# Collaborations and impacts

- 🌿 Integrating HIV, Hepatitis, TB services in Europe (EU Joint Action)
- 🌿 Integrated Hepatitis C care (Structural Reform Support Service of European Union)
- 🌿 Primary / secondary care links locally – sexual health, Covid-19...







STUDY PROTOCOL

REVISED

## **Anticipate study protocol: Baseline profile and care outcomes of patients attending Mater Misericordiae University Hospital with COVID-19 infection [version 2; peer review: 2 approved]**

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Funding: Health Research Board [COV19-2020-123]

# Collaborations and impacts

 ECDC

 EMCDDA

 DG SANTE

 EASL

 Lisbon Addictions Conference

 HepHIV



# Next steps

- 🌿 Adopting lessons learned from HepCare Europe
- 🌿 Integrating multiple diseases into one initiative
- 🌿 Scaling up 'Testing and Treatment of Multiple Diseases'
- 🌿 Reaching vulnerable populations not accessing care
- 🌿 Expanding to new geographic areas
- 🌿 Continuing to develop 'integrated model' with seamless hospital to community care
- 🌿 Importance of generalist care as well as specialist care



# Advice for prospective applicants

- 🌿 Co-funding requirement is important
- 🌿 Health agencies, in-kind, industry, SME, etc
- 🌿 Clinical project or research study?
- 🌿 Deliverables, milestones, tasks, work packages etc
- 🌿 Coordination and management role considerable





# Acknowledgements

- 🌿 Co-funded by the European Commission through its EU Third Health Programme and Ireland's Health Services Executive
- 🌿 Participating GPs, Addiction Services, patients
- 🌿 Partners: UCL, Bucharest, U Bristol, SAS Seville
- 🌿 Steering Group Members
- 🌿 ECDC, EASL, EMCDDA, DG Sante, CHAFEA
- 🌿 Dr C Menel-Lemos

