

**Project Name:** Optimising pathways for those living with hepatitis B

**Organisations:** Cheshire and Merseyside Viral Hepatitis Operational Delivery Network

**Start Date:** 03/2026

**Summary:**

The project addresses growing pressures on hepatitis B services by mapping current pathways, identifying gaps, and developing a gold standard pathway to improve diagnosis, access equity, and patient retention. Desired outcomes include universal hepatitis delta testing, re-engaging patients lost to follow-up, system-wide rollout across Cheshire & Merseyside, and national endorsement and dissemination of the pathway.

**Objectives:**

1. Map current hepatitis B pathways across Cheshire & Merseyside to identify gaps and variation in care.
2. Develop a gold-standard, multidisciplinary HBV pathway with universal hepatitis delta testing.
3. Strengthen workforce capability, including nurse and pharmacist competency frameworks.
4. Improve equity of access, patient retention in care, and efficient use of NHS resources

**Benefits:**

**Patients:**

1. Linkage to treatment for hepatitis B, with care managed by the most appropriate healthcare professional, with the potential for care closer to home and access to specialist care for areas where district general hospitals may lack expertise.
2. Improved access to cancer surveillance.
3. Early access to fibroscans through community care.
4. Earlier diagnosis of hepatitis delta and treatment where appropriate.
5. Improvements in service efficiency and productivity with an emphasis on patient experience of the healthcare system.
6. Reduction in waiting times for specialist appointments and timely monitoring appointments e.g. blood tests

**Organisation/NHS:**

1. Improved rates of diagnosis and linkage to care.
2. Timely treatment of patients.
3. Facilitate effective implementation of international guidelines on hepatitis B.
4. Services configured around patient needs.
5. Better health outcomes, including reduction in liver cancer incidence.
6. More efficient use of NHS resources.
7. Reductions in the need for liver transplant.
8. Lower hospital admissions.
9. Reduction in late diagnosis of hepatitis delta.
10. Reduction in patients requiring complex tertiary care.
11. Gold standard pathway linked to NHS England Liver Transformation team, the national viral hepatitis team and the GIRFT team that can be adopted for use across NHS.
12. Reduction of health inequalities in relation to viral hepatitis by the delivery of a standardised care pathway



**Gilead:**

1. Better understanding of the challenges faced by the NHS in delivering high-quality patient services and care for those living with hepatitis B and delta. 2. Recognition of Gilead's commitment to the liver community. 3. Potential expansion of the relevant and eligible patient population for Hepcludex (bulevirtide) as a result of more timely diagnosis of hepatitis delta. However, as bulevirtide is 2nd line in national guidelines and there are strict reimbursement criteria for its use in the UK, this project is not anticipated to have an immediate impact on sales.

**Contact:**

Uk Medical Information, [ukmed.info@gilead.com](mailto:ukmed.info@gilead.com)

UKI-UNB-2535 | March 2026

**BED-05371 (1.0)**