

# **OUTLINE SCOPING DOCUMENT FOR ASSESSMENT, BY THE ADVISORY GROUP ON HEPATITIS (AGH), OF NEW EVIDENCE ON THE NATURAL HISTORY OF HEPATITIS C**

## **Introduction**

The then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Public Health, Anne Milton MP decided to establish a structured mechanism for assessing new published clinical and scientific evidence on the natural history of hepatitis C infection and the consequences of chronic infection, published since the autumn of 2010. A letter sent in July 2012, inviting the AGH to undertake this work is attached at **Annex A** and the proposed remit of that work is at **Annex B**.

Patient representatives have drawn the Department's attention to a range of health conditions, which are of particular concern to infected individuals and their families. A list of these is provided (at **Annex C**) for the Committee's information, but there is no intention that the AGH should restrict their consideration to the conditions listed.

The purpose of putting in place this regular expert assessment is to help DH ascertain whether the eligibility criteria for access to payments made by the Skipton Fund, remain consistent with the evidence.

## **AGH's role**

The committee's role is solely to assess and provide expert advice on any published clinical and scientific evidence that falls within the scope of the remit, and to respond to any associated requests for clarification that DH officials might put to it.

AGH has no role in advising on whether the Skipton Fund eligibility criteria remain consistent with the evidence, and nor does it have a role in advising on levels of financial support for those affected.

## **AGH outputs**

AGH's reports of its advice will be provided to the AGH's DH sponsor. The AGH secretariat will arrange for publication of the advice on the AGH's website.