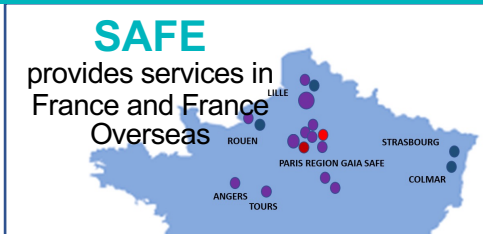


# 11 SAFE remote HCV screening project

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The SAFE association provides harm reduction products and support, and linkage to care for people who use drugs (PWUD) through their Harm REduction by Post (HAREPO) programme

~2000 PWUD have benefited from the HAREPO programme



**Aim:** to increase the number of HAREPO registrants screened, linked to care (LTC) and treated for HCV using remote methods of screening, including remote dried blood spot (DBS) testing

## Why is the model needed?<sup>2,3</sup>



**SAFE targets PWUD who do not usually access or do not want to be linked to drug addiction services**



- PWUD who do not consider themselves as drug addicts or identify with the 'stereotype' of a drug user
- PWUD who have a fear of stigma
- PWUD looking for anonymity
- Women not comfortable frequenting low-threshold centres

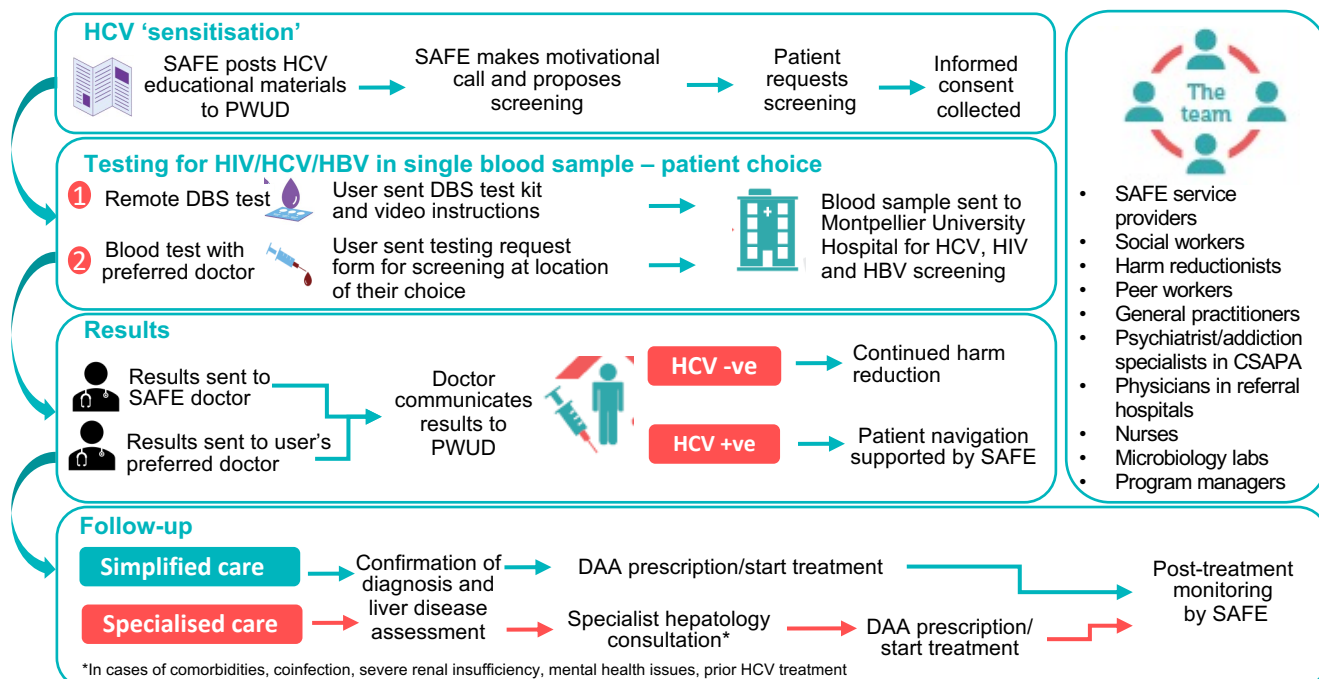
In a survey of **163 PWUD**:

**67%** lived in rural areas

**28%** were unaware of their HCV status

HCV disease awareness was low among women, people in rural/semi-urban areas, non-injectors

## What is the model and how does it work<sup>3</sup>



### Interventions used to enhance HCV testing, LTC and treatment uptake

- Outreach HCV testing and counselling
- Remote DBS testing
- Patient navigation and facilitated referral for community-based HCV evaluation and treatment, or enhanced referral to specialist HCV care
- Noninvasive liver disease assessment using transient elastography or blood biomarker tests

## Key learnings<sup>3</sup>



### Average costs of remote screening

€16 Outreach & education

€103 From informed consent to delivery

€0 Performing the test

€26–250 Providing results

€155–369 TOTAL COST



### Challenges and key learnings

- Many PWUD do not have access to harm reduction programmes
- Most rural areas have no specialised care infrastructure for PWUD
- Education and remote screening for through HAREPO provides an opportunity to test for, treat and cure HCV, HBV and HIV
- Self-testing using DBS is a suitable screening option (87% of PWUD consented to receive the test)

Many PWUD are still disconnected from traditional harm reduction services and may not seek out HCV care. Education and remote screening for HCV, HBV and HIV through the SAFE HAREPO programme provides an opportunity to test, treat and cure these individuals

1. INSEE. Tables of the French economy. Available at: <https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/3303318?sommaire=3353488> (accessed September 2019);  
 2. Favrel P, et al. INHSU 2018; Poster 68; 3. Duplessy C, personal communication.  
 CAARUD: Reception and Support Center for Drugs Users Risk Reduction; CSAPA: Center for Care, Support and Prevention in Addiction

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