



TALKING TESTING: BEST PRACTICE IN HEPATITIS B AND HEPATITIS C PRE AND POST TEST DISCUSSION

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**What makes
a good
testing encounter?**

The project

- 40 interview and focus group participants
- Clinical and community-based testing providers
- Key informants from community-based, research, policy, and workforce education settings
- What are the elements of quality hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV testing encounters?
- What are the non-medical needs of people around the time of testing and diagnosis?

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Normalisation
Stigma-sensitive
practice

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Hepatitis B

what can testing providers do?

When talking about testing

- Emphasise prevalence in the patient's community or region
- De-emphasise sexual and injecting risk factors

When working with newly diagnosed people

- Offer culturally appropriate support to build understanding of transmission and asymptomatic disease
- Support people to control the method and timing of family testing

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Hepatitis C - talking testing

Curability helps normalise testing discussions

Curability does not

- eliminate stigma from the testing experience
- mitigate the impact of a new diagnosis

Patient-led discussions (rather than provider-led questioning) about risk and prevention

Stigma-sensitive communication

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Stigma sensitive practice

Stigma can make it difficult to

- Ask for testing
- Offer testing

Stigma-sensitive practitioners

- Use basic communication skills to convey their awareness that stigma exists, and that it can be worse in healthcare settings
- Meaningfully recognise that communities affected by hepatitis experience many forms of marginalisation
- Recognise that the testing experience can be difficult

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Key messages

Expert knowledge in viral hepatitis epidemiology, risk assessment, prevention or management is not needed to initiate testing conversations in general health care settings.

Initiatives that improve provider awareness of the impact of stigma on the experience of testing and diagnosis will contribute significantly to improving hepatitis care cascades.

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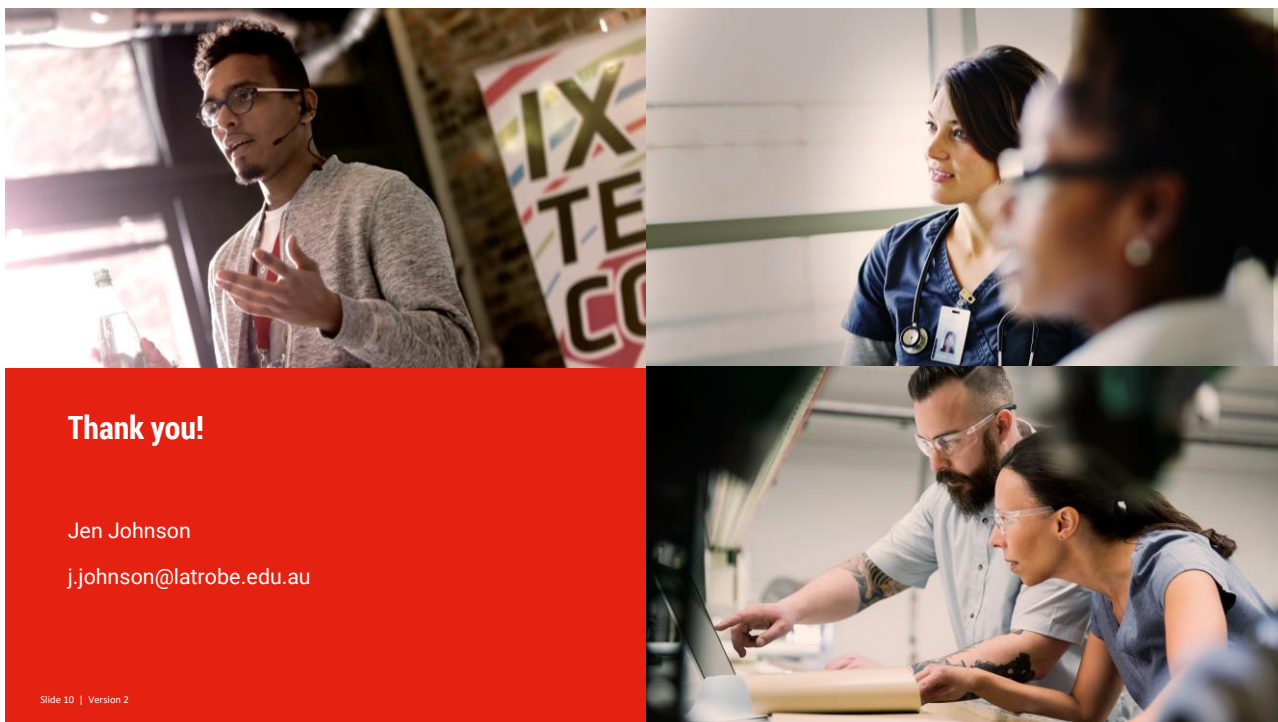
Report:

Jen Johnson and Emily Lenton (2017). HIV and hepatitis pre and post test discussion in Victoria Consultation report. Melbourne: Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, La Trobe University.

Talking testing resources:

- ☒ Talking testing: Initiating HIV Testing tool
- ☒ Talking Testing: Initiating Hepatitis C Testing tool
- ☒ Talking Testing: Initiating Hepatitis B Testing tool

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Thank you!

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