

CLINICIANS' ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE TREATMENT OF HEPATITIS C IN PATIENTS WHO ARE INJECTING DRUG USERS (CATHPIN)

Fenech M^{1,4}, Mason S^{2,4}, Morgan J^{3,4}, Narayana S^{3,4}, Richmond J^{5,4}, Sheppard-Law S.^{6,4}

(1) Royal Brisbane & Women's Hospital Australia (2) The Alfred Hospital, Sydney (3) Royal Adelaide Hospital (4) The Australasian Hepatology Association (5) The Kirby Institute (6) University of Technology Sydney

Special Thanks to the following organisations for their assistance in disseminating the online survey to their members.

- Australasian Hepatology Association (AHA)
- Australian Liver Association (ALA)
- Australasian Society for HIV, Viral Hep & Sexual Health Medicine (ASHM)
- Special Thanks to all members who participated in the study.



•**Disclosures:** This project was undertaken with funding awarded through a Gilead Fellowship, 2016-2017

Join the Conversation @ASHMMEDIA  #VH18

BACKGROUND/AIMS & METHODS:

❖ All oral, once daily medication for twelve weeks is now available with direct acting anti-virals (DAAs), for the treatment of chronic Hepatitis C Virus (HCV). Treatment of HCV in patients who inject drugs (PWID), is supported by evidence which shows no difference in treatment outcomes between PWID and other HCV patients. Treatment of PWID is also advocated as a mode of prevention.

Why is this study important?

- Some clinicians have expressed reluctance to treat PWID citing concerns about poor adherence and re infection^{1,2}.

What is the study aim(s)?

- To gain insight into the attitudes of Australian clinicians in providing HCV treatment to patients who inject drugs
- To inform recommendations for the implementation of education and support to clinicians

❖ Study Design/patient population

- An exploratory investigation via the use of a validated self administered online questionnaire.
- Self-selected Nurses and medical practitioners in liver clinics Australia-wide, OR where treatment currently occurs.

Study assessments

- Demographic Questionnaire – age, gender, ethnicity, years of professional experience, level of education, specialty & length of time working in HCV (60% = 5 years or greater).
- Drugs and Drug Problems perceptions Questionnaire (DDPPQ) – 20 item questionnaire with reliability demonstrated by a Cronbach's alpha of 0.87

Statistical analysis

- Descriptive Analysis provided for this presentation

•Respondents

- 151 - Consultants (24.8%), Medical Officers (14.4%), Nurses (54.2%) & Others (5.2%)
- Tertiary (47.7%), Outreach (33%), Community (17.6%), PHC (19%), Rural 3.9%

Join the Conversation @ASHMMEDIA  #VH18

RESULTS:

www.hepatitis.org.au

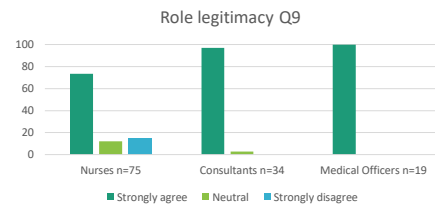
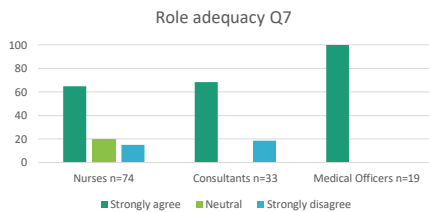
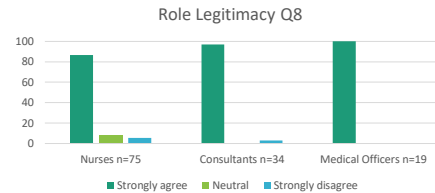
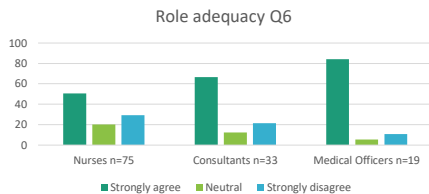
Likert Scale 1-7 - where Strongly agree = 1 - 3 and Strongly Disagree = 5 - 7

Role Related **Self Esteem** Domain scored highly across all professions

Role **Satisfaction** Domain also scored highly across all professions

In the **Role Adequacy Domain** some knowledge deficits in nurses self-report

The **Role Legitimacy Domain** – some ambivalence in Nurses compared to Consultant and Medical Officers



Join the Conversation @ASHMMEDIA #VH18

CONCLUSIONS/IMPLICATIONS:

www.hepatitis.org.au

- Overall, in this analysis of Consultants Medical Officers, Medical Officers, & Nurses, demonstrates some differences between self reports of each group
- Role Adequacy (drug misuse and clinical treatment knowledge) and Role Legitimacy scores may provide guidance for mentorship and up skilling in these clinicians to enhance professional knowledge.
- Increased knowledge and support may also contribute positively to Role satisfaction which was reflected as poor “understanding” of drug users in general.
- This is the first study of this kind addressing specific Clinicians Perceptions of drug use amongst patients with Chronic Hepatitis C.
- Further analysis of this data is required. Some results parallel results of Ford et al study re legitimacy & adequacy
- Studies other than self report may reveal greater discrepancies in clinicians knowledge & capacity to care for this client cohort.

Join the Conversation @ASHMMEDIA #VH18