

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

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## **Background:**

International guidelines recommend the treatment of hepatitis C virus (HCV) in patients who inject drugs (PWID), and treatment of PWID is also advocated as a mode of prevention. Some clinicians have expressed reluctance to treat PWID citing concerns about poor adherence and re infection. This study examined the attitudes of specific Australian clinicians to working with patients with ongoing substance use.

## **Methods:**

Health Care Professionals (HCPs) were asked to complete a de-identified online survey. Participants provided demographic information and completed the validated 20 item Drug and Drug Problems Perception Questionnaire (DDPPQ). The DDPPQ is divided into five domains and scored on a Likert scale. Data were exported into a Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) Version 21, for analyses. Mean scores were calculated for each of the DDPPQ domains. One way Anova measured differences between professional groups perception of their role.

## **Results:**

Of the total participants (n=183) Registered Nurses, Pharmacists, Medical Officers and "Others" represented 43%, 21%, 30.8% and 5.2%, respectively. Significant differences were found between HCPs groups in: role adequacy (p=0.014), role legitimacy (p=0.001), role related self-esteem (p=0.001), and job satisfaction (p=0.001)

## **Conclusion:**

Findings showed low job related self-esteem and satisfaction and reduced role adequacy and legitimacy in some HCPs working with substance users. Discussion will focus on these results as a barrier to expanding treatment in PWID.

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