

Nurse-Led Hepatitis C Care Model in AOD Services: Expansion to Mental Health & Rural Communities

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Background:

Hepatitis C remains a significant health challenge in underserved populations, requiring innovative, community-focused approaches. West Moreton Health (WMH) Alcohol and Other Drug Services (AODS) Ipswich Clinic demonstrates a successful, adaptable model spanning a large and diverse region. Our model extends beyond our clinic to mental health services and rural outreach, maximizing access and impact across the WMH community.

Argument:

By integrating point-of-care testing (POCT) and fibro scanning in our clinic and outreach model with Hepatitis Queensland, we address care gaps for populations facing geographic, social, and systemic barriers. This community-based approach ensures timely testing, treatment, and follow-up, improving outcomes, reducing transmission, and advancing Hepatitis C elimination.

Outcomes:

Since 2024, 300 clients have been tested: in 2026 we are expanding our testing into the community and mental health services and our mobile rural outreach, within the next 6 months our results will highlight the reach and effectiveness of our outreach-focused model.

Conclusions/Applications:

Our data emphasize the importance of making Hepatitis C testing accessible for vulnerable populations. Extending services into mental health and rural environments reduces barriers, enhances early detection, and streamlines care. Continued expansion will improve health outcomes, strengthen care pathways, and contribute to Hepatitis C elimination across the WMH community.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

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