

Real Results: The Impact of Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service on the Identification, Monitoring and Treatment of Aboriginal People Living with Hepatitis B.

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Background/Approach:

Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service (DYHS), is the largest and oldest Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (ACCHO) in WA, providing culturally secure primary healthcare to approximately 17,000 patients annually. DYHS has started the process of identifying the Hepatitis B (HBV) status for all our regular patients (6,105) over the age of 15 years.

Analysis/Argument:

ACCHOs are integral to ensuring equitable, culturally appropriate and holistic approaches to the management of chronic conditions. DYHS's Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Group identified HBV as a priority in 2020. To address the issue, DYHS has appointed Aboriginal Health Practitioners, Sexual Health Nurses and General Practitioners as 'Hepatitis B Champions'. We have conducted case finding and file audits to identify clients with chronic HBV and those with a known immune status. We have worked to customise culturally relevant *Communicare* clinical items, reports and recalls to better suit the health profile and unique needs of our patients. Staff have been trained to provide FibroScan® within the primary health clinic to improve access to monitoring that they would not ordinarily have had access to.

Outcome:

Through a strong focus on clinical quality improvement DYHS has identified 52 patients with unmanaged HBV, facilitating monitoring, treatment, surveillance and FibroScans®. Now, 43% of our regular patients have a known HBV status, and our recalls can be used to target testing for those with an unknown status. DYHS is aspiring to meet the vision statement of the 4th National Hepatitis B Strategy: Eliminating HBV as a public health threat in Australia by providing enhanced, innovative and novel models of primary care within the ACCHO setting to work towards removing barriers and inequity in healthcare for some of our most disadvantaged patients. This initiative exemplifies how culturally grounded, community-driven innovative healthcare can achieve tangible, transformative and ultimately life-saving outcomes for Aboriginal people.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

“Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service recognise the considerable contribution of The Australasian Society for HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexual Health Medicine (ASHM) and other partners in the sector, in facilitating the “Beyond the C” project. We also recognise the need for transparency of disclosure of potential conflicts of interest by acknowledging these relationships in publications and presentations.”

Summer Marriott and Adam Gregson are on the VH2026 committee.