

## **The Right Test for the Right Person in the Right Setting**

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**Session time:** 90 minutes (10 minute scene setting, 10 minutes x 5 speakers and 30 minutes discussion)

**Aim:** This symposium aims to summarise the available and emerging diagnostics tests for Hepatitis C in Australia, outlining the most recent testing policies, regulatory requirements and operational environments. The panel will then outline five diagnostics testing pathways and discuss how each test can be implemented effectively to meet the clients' needs and implementing environment in various settings.

**Panellist 1: Implementing reflexive HCV testing in the Laboratory**

Morgyn Warner - Clinical Director | Microbiology & Infectious Diseases Directorate | SA Pathology

Panellist 1 email: [morgyn.warner@sa.gov.au](mailto:morgyn.warner@sa.gov.au)

**Panellist 2: Implementing POC & DBS testing in a health service – which test to choose?**

Kate Salisbury (Clinical Nurse Mid North Coast LHD)

Panellist 2 email: [Kate.Salisbury@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Kate.Salisbury@health.nsw.gov.au)

**Panellist 3: Shifting testing modalities in Prison – how to best deploy POC and reflexive testing in prison?**

Linda Hidalgo - Clinical Nurse or Chris Wallis - Nurse Practitioner, Prison & Preventative Health Services; back up Carla Gorton QLD Health

Panellist 3 email: *<Enter the email address of panellist>*

**Panellist 4: Out on the road - experiences in delivering testing in mobile van**

Paul Jeffery - Hep C Case Manager / Trina Nelson – Aboriginal Peer Program Lead

Julie Byrne-King – South West Nurse, Peer-based Harm Reduction Victoria

Back-up: C No More Van – Victoria. Mark Belzer + Bridget Reid + Bec Winter

Panellist 5 email: *<Enter the email address of panellist>*

**Panellist 5: What do clients prefer? Experiences from peers & community organisations**

Donna Garcia – Aboriginal Health Worker, Hepatitis WA

Jessica McNabb – Clinic Nurse, Hepatitis WA

Panellist 4 email: *<Enter the email address of panellist>*

**Detailed Description of Topics to be Discussed:**

- Current state of play – summary of available and emerging diagnostics tests for HCV
- Implementing reflexive testing at scale – experiences from SA Laboratory
- DBS testing to scale up community-based testing - experiences from NSW
- Rapid AB & RNA testing in prison - experiences from QLD prisons
- What clients want and what services can provide - perspective on testing modalities from nurse-peer partnerships and people with lived experience of HCV and injecting drug use.

**Discussion Section:** This panel symposium will provide participants with up-to-date information on the current available and emerging diagnostics tests for HCV. It will provide a brief overview of the 2025 National Hepatitis C Testing Policy including the HCV testing and diagnostics strategies and novel sample collection processes and testing technologies such as dried blood spot sampling and self-testing. The panel will then take the audience through different diagnostics testing strategies discussing the rationale for test selection, enabling environment, training needs, regulatory requirements and experiences with implementation. The audience will have opportunities to ask questions from the panel members and the chairs will facilitate discussions on how we can ensure services/programs can choose the right test for the right person and setting.

The audience will take away a clear understanding of the available and emerging diagnostics tests for HCV and insights into how HCV testing strategies can be implemented effectively to meet the clients' needs and implementing environment in various settings.

**Disclosure of Interest Statement:**

The Australasian Society for HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexual Health Medicine and the 2026 Conference Collaborators recognise the considerable contribution that industry partners make to professional and research activities. We also recognise the need for transparency of disclosure of potential conflicts of interest by acknowledging these relationships in publications and presentations.