

Digital Health Solutions to Improving follow up of Viral Hepatitis

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Background: Targets for hepatitis C virus (HCV) elimination in New South Wales (NSW) are currently not being met, and our district continues to carry a significant burden of hepatitis B virus (HBV). To support early identification and follow-up of affected patients, a digital health dashboard called the Liver Clinic Dashboard, was developed. This tool enables rapid identification of inpatients with any historical positive viral hepatitis result, facilitating timely review and linkage to care.

Argument: Hospitalisation represents a critical opportunity to engage patients in care, initiate treatment where appropriate, and ensure ongoing follow-up for chronic viral hepatitis.

Outcomes/Results: The Liver Clinic Dashboard generates an active, daily-refreshed list of currently admitted patients with a documented positive HCV antibody, HCV RNA, or HBV surface antigen (HBsAg) result. Since implementation of this model, up to 30 patients per day have been assessed for treatment needs or linkage to specialist care. On average, one patient per month is identified as HCV viraemic and in need of antiviral therapy, with several patients commencing treatment while still admitted. The system has also enabled identification of both new and previously known cases of HBV, including patients presenting with cirrhosis at the time of diagnosis.

Conclusions/Applications: Innovative digital health tools such as the Liver Clinic Dashboard can play a significant role in achieving viral hepatitis strategy targets. This model is adaptable and scalable, providing a strong framework for implementation at other sites and for broader expansion across the health system.

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