

HOSPITAL-BASED HEPATITIS B AND C SCREENING AND TREATMENT APPROACH FOR MENTAL HEALTH INPATIENTS: CLINICIAN EDUCATION EXPERIENCE

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Background:

Mental health populations experience disproportionately high hepatitis B and C infection rates, yet clinician knowledge gaps and attitudinal barriers limit screening implementation. Educational interventions targeting knowledge deficits represent a critical component of improving blood-borne virus care in psychiatric settings.

This study evaluates the impact of a structured educational intervention on clinician knowledge, attitudes, and screening practices regarding hepatitis B and C among mental health healthcare providers. The research examines sustained knowledge retention and attitude changes three months after the intervention.

Methods:

A prospective educational intervention targeting mental health doctors and nurses was conducted in adult mental health inpatient units. The intervention included hybrid (online and in-person) training delivered August-October 2025, covering hepatitis epidemiology, screening guidelines, treatment advances, and care pathways. Pre-intervention, immediate post-intervention, and 3-month follow-up surveys assessed knowledge scores, attitudes towards screening, perceived barriers, and self-reported screening practices.

Results: The presentation will summarise information about clinician knowledge, perceived screening barriers, hepatitis management confidence, and screening intentions. Forty-seven staff completed the pre-education survey, and thirty-eight staff completed the post-education survey. The pre-education survey found that fifty percent had only a “small amount” or “nil” knowledge about Hep B & C. The post education survey found that 100% either “agreed” or “strongly agreed” they have improved knowledge levels for both Hep B & C. Staff reported an increase of knowledge about Hep B and C screening and treatment from baseline. The findings will include staff feedback about the education session.

Conclusion: This research provides evidence for education for Hepatitis B and C to improve screening and treatment in mental health settings. Staff strongly identified responsibility to screen Hepatitis C in the mental health setting.

Disclosure of Interest Statement: Please include disclosure of interest statement in your abstract for any contributions received relevant to this work.

“Austin Health’s mental health division and department of gastroenterology and hepatology recognise the considerable contribution that industry partners make to

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