

Integrating nurse-led models in the NSW Hepatitis C Remote Prescribing Program

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Background

Funded by NSW Health and coordinated by ASHM, the NSW Hepatitis C (HCV) Remote Prescribing Program has been expanding access for the past four years to HCV treatment. Using a nurse-led patient-centered model of care, nurses' experienced in HCV continue to facilitate diagnosis and linkages to prescribers, enabling timely treatment initiation in diverse settings across NSW.

The key successes of 2024 and the key achievements since the programs launch in 2020 is presented below.

ASHM oversees the program's implementation by maintaining participation records and collecting de-identified patient data to monitor impact and evaluation of the program.

Program outcomes

2024 in review	
Total number of prescribers participating in the program	25
Total number of referring nurses participating in the program	13
Total number of patients assessed and initiated on treatment	107
Number of unique nurses who assessed and remotely referred	3
Number of unique prescribers who initiated patients on treatment	9

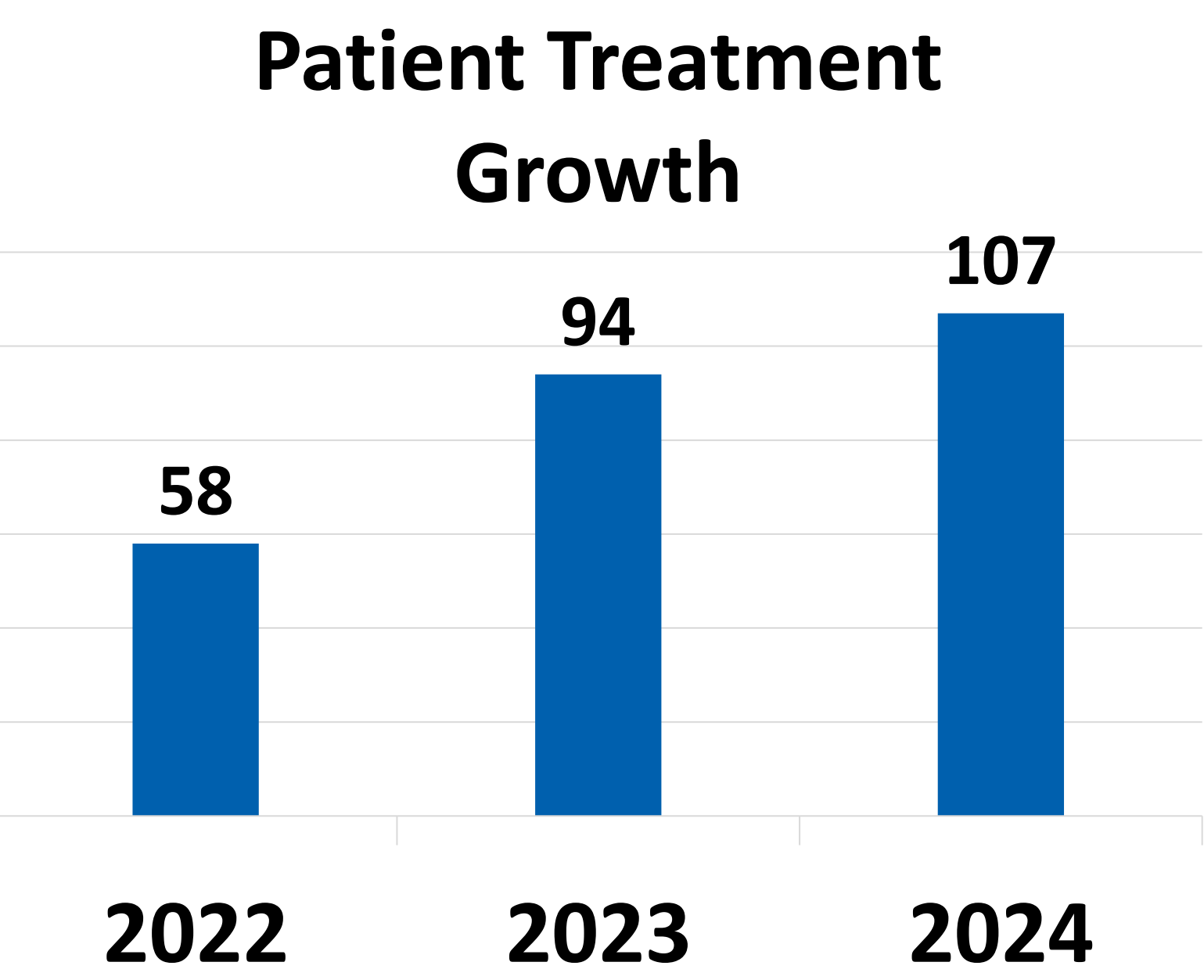
Program Expansion Over Time

19 – 25

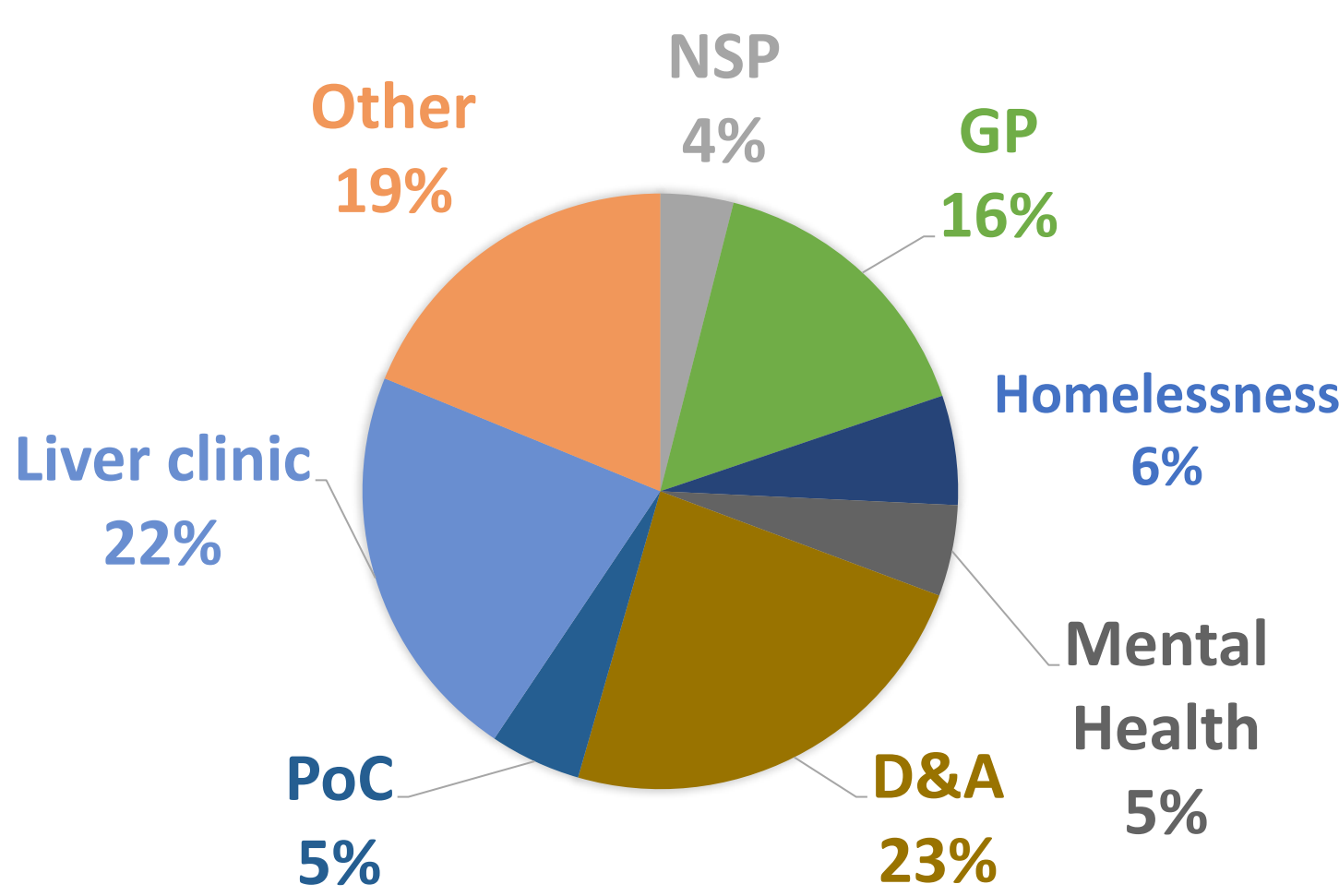
6 new prescribers since 2022

5 – 13

Unique referring nurses



Patient Settings 2024



'Other' settings:

- Community Health
- NCIMS
- DBS
- Sexual Health
- Corrections/Community corrections
- AMS
- D&A Rehab

Compared to 2020, the program has expanded to:

- Community Health
- NCIMS
- DBS
- Sexual Health
- Corrections/Community corrections
- PoC
- NSP

Key Achievements, 2022-2025

- ✓ 85% increase in patient treatment uptake
- ✓ 32% growth in prescribers
- ✓ 160% increase in referring nurses
- ✓ Expanded across diverse clinical settings
- ✓ Maintained high treatment completion rates

Methods and Analysis

Since its 2020 launch, the NSW Hepatitis C Remote Prescribing Program has delivered strong outcomes. The largest expansion has focused on boosting nurse-led treatment initiations in regional and remote NSW. With 6 additional Nurse Practitioners since 2020, treatment initiations have risen 37% in these areas.

Many patients rarely access traditional healthcare. By bringing services to them, nurses have expanded access through referrals and treatment at Community Health Centers, Point-of-Care Centers, Sexual Health Centers, and more.

Nurse-led, Patient-Centered Care

The patient's needs are central throughout the process, with the nurses providing individualized care and support to facilitate treatment access in a timely and efficient manner.

Benefits for Patients:

- ✓ Reduced travel and appointment burden
- ✓ Treatment in familiar, comfortable settings
- ✓ Elimination of specialist referral delays
- ✓ Comprehensive support throughout treatment

Conclusion

- The program has show effective expansion in it's reach, growth in referrers and prescribers, and yearly increases in treatment initiation.
- Findings shown above show the program is effective in connecting nurses, particularly in regional and rural NSW to Nurse Practitioners, allowing for HCV treatment initiations.
- ASHM is currently looking to use its learnings from the program to expand the model nationally to strengthen referrers and prescribers in each state and territory to drive an uptake in HCV treatment where it's needed the most.