



The Eliminate Hepatitis C Partnership

Models of care to enhance hepatitis C treatment

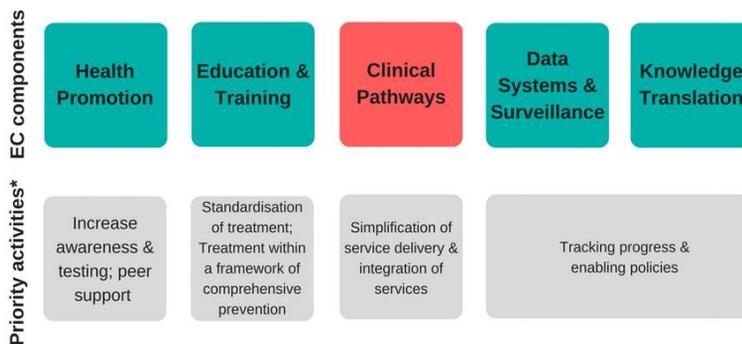
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EC Partnership

Aim of EC Partnership:

Expanding community-based treatment program to increase HCV **treatment uptake in people who inject drugs (PWID)** using nurse-led models of care in the community and the prison system



* Ref: Ford et al, Ten priorities for expanding access to HCV treatment for people who inject drugs in low- and middle-income countries, 2016

Aim of site scoping

- Identify high case load clinics for PWID
- Document models of hepatitis C care in community clinics
- Identify barriers and enablers to increasing hepatitis C treatment uptake
- Inform EC intervention package

23 sites approached (Metropolitan Melbourne)

- Community clinics with alcohol and other drug service (AoD) or needle syringe programs (NSP)
- Opioid substitution therapy (OST) providers



16 sites responded and visited

- 9 community health clinics with NSPs and AOD services
- 2 AOD services attached to hospitals
- 1 community medical clinic
- 4 private OST GP clinics



Semi-structured interview

- Case-load
- Workforce/staff
- HCV testing process
- HCV treatment process
- Barriers and enablers
- Support needed to increase testing and treatment



Models of Care

Community prescribing

- Clinic nurses or GPs arrange HCV tests.
- Liver assessments (scans) referred to radiology services or to hepatitis nurses*
- GPs independently prescribe treatment
- Complex clients with cirrhosis referred to specialists

Nurse* led hepatitis C clinic

- Hepatitis nurse* visits outreach clinic and arranges HCV tests and liver scans
- Hepatitis nurse* arranges for treatment scripts to be written by a specialist
- Hepatitis nurse* may have mentored GP and clinic nurse on hepatitis C management

Comprehensive community care

- Hepatitis nurse* visits an outreach clinic with a specialist
- Hepatitis nurse* or clinic staff arranged HCV tests
- All care including for clients with cirrhosis remains at community clinics

* Integrated hepatitis nurses are funded by the Victorian Department of Health to deliver hepatitis care in community settings

Key opportunities to increase testing and treatment uptake

- Partner with hepatitis nurses to support clinic's capacity to offer opportunistic testing
- Trial rapid point-of-care testing to increase opportunistic testing and treatment
- Support hepatitis nurses in mentoring GPs or nurse practitioners to independently prescribe treatment
- Develop standardised data collection tools to address current ad hoc data collection to facilitate monitoring of program



Conclusions

Learnings from the site scoping have informed the EC Intervention Package which includes:

- Patient engagement and support materials
- Practice Support, including setting up pathology favourites, patient searches, MBS billing options
- Clinical Decision Making Tools

We're currently trialling the EC Intervention Package at three sites, using the nurse-led hepatitis C clinic with a focus on mentoring clinic nurses and GPs to test and treat hepatitis C



Acknowledgement

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