



Burnet Institute

Medical Research. Practical Action.

Increasing the role of GPs in hepatitis B diagnosis, treatment and management: a nationwide survey of general practitioners in Australia

Xiao Y, Howell J, Wallace J, Thompson A, Hellard M, van Gemert C
Burnet Institute | St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne | University of Melbourne

AVHEC
5 August 2019

Background

- Gaps on the care cascade of hepatitis B in Australia.

Service coverage rate	Current Level₁ in 2017	National targets₂ by 2022	Global targets₃ by 2030
Diagnosis rate	63.7%	80%	90%
In care rate	20.2%	50%	-
Treatment rate	8.3%	20%	80% eligible

- GPs have an essential role if Australia is to meet the national and international targets.
- This study is to understand the structural barriers and opportunities to hep B management among Australian GPs.

References

- 1 MacLachlan J. Hepatitis B Mapping Project national report. 2019
- 2 Department of Health. Third National Hepatitis B Strategy 2018–2022. 2018
- 3 WHO. Global Health Sector Strategy on Viral Hepatitis 2016–2021. 2016

Methods

- Questionnaire

Hepatitis B-
related
knowledge

Professional
identity

Confidence of
providing
relevant care

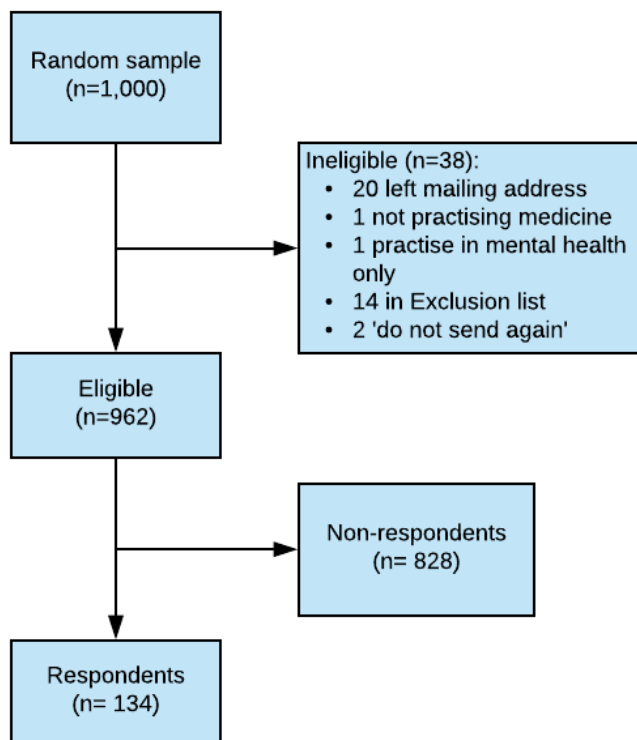
Self-report
barriers and
facilitators

- A random sample of 1,000 GPs in Australia were selected from the national database of Australian Medical Publishing Company (AMPCo)
- Invitations and two reminders were posted or emailed to selected GPs in April- Oct 2018
- Paper and online survey
- Statistical analysis

Results 1

- Response rate ~14%

Figure 1. Flow chart



- Respondents are more likely to work part time

Table 1. Comparison of demographics in respondents and non-respondents to survey

	Respondents (n=134)	Non-respondents (n=828)	p-value
Age > 50 (n, %)	85 (64) ^a	477 (57) ^b	0.20
Female (n, %)	70 (52)	359 (43)	0.05
Full time (n, %)	106 (79)	747 (90)	<0.001
Practice state (n, %)			0.04
NSW	43 (32)	288 (35)	
VIC	40 (30)	173 (21)	
QLD	20 (15)	180 (22)	
WA	14 (10)	83 (10)	
SA	12 (9)	61 (7)	
NT	3 (2)	5 (1)	
ACT	2 (1)	15 (2)	
TAS	0	23 (3)	

^a Of 133 respondents with age data available.

^b Of 823 non-respondents with age data available.

Results 2

Demographics and practice characteristics of respondents

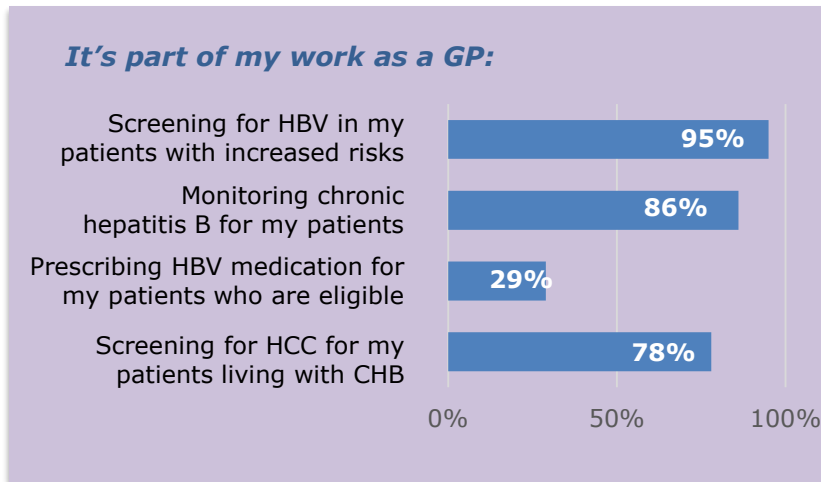
- Female (52%)
- Median age: 56 years
- Private general practice (90%)
- Working hour per week (median): 32 hours
- Primary medical degree in Australia (72%)
- Speaking another language (35%)

- 15% reported over one quarter of their patients were born in a hepatitis B endemic country (where hepatitis B prevalence >2%)

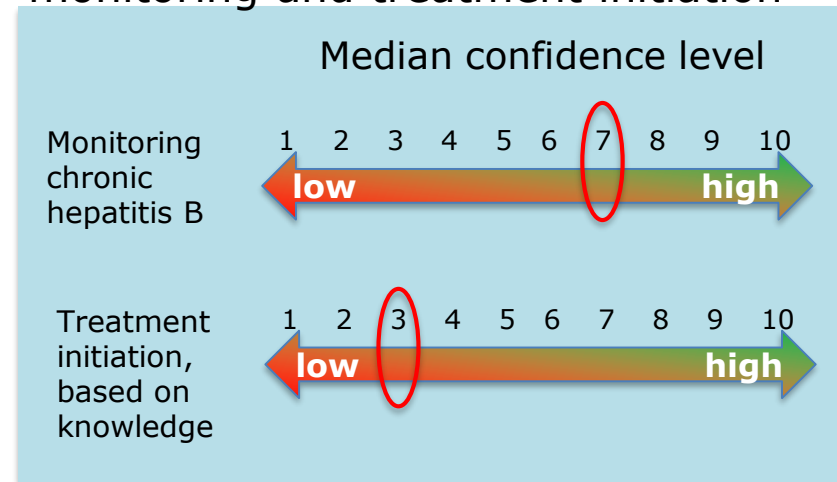
- S100 hepatitis B medication prescriber: 3

Results 3

Professional identity



Confidence of chronic hepatitis B monitoring and treatment initiation



Knowledge & awareness

1. Identified at-risk populations correctly (72%)
2. Interpreted hepatitis B positive serology correctly (82%)
3. Knew that treatment need to be initiated at specific phases (21%)
4. Knew that hep B medication could be dispensed in the community (40%)

Self-reported barriers and facilitators for hep B testing and management

- | Top 3 barriers: | Top 3 facilitators: |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not enough time• Unclear guideline• No reminder | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clear guideline• Continuing medical education• Online resources |

Discussion

- There is a need to increase awareness of the role of GPs in monitoring and treating chronic hepatitis B.
- Linking chronic hepatitis B management guidelines and resources to GPs' practice.
- Limitations:
 1. low response rate;
 2. potential bias in the surveyed sample.

Acknowledgements

- Prof Margaret Hellard
- Prof Alex Thompson
- Dr Jess Howell
- Dr Caroline Van Gemert
- Dr Jack Wallace
- Colleagues at Burnet Institute, specially Angus Morgan
- Department of Gastroenterology, St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne
- University of Melbourne
- Melbourne Research Scholarship, University of Melbourne
- Advisory group members, including
 - Prof Benjamin Cowie
 - Ms Elizabeth Dunn
 - Ms Emily Adamson
 - Ms Jacqui Richmond
 - Ms Julie Wang
 - Prof Mark Stoove
 - Ms Meg Perrier
 - Marin Forrest
 - Dr Natalia Rod
 - Dr Nicole Allard
 - Ms Vanessa Towell

