

# BEYOND INFORMATION - HEPATITIS B ENGAGEMENT WITH THE CHINESE COMMUNITY IN ADELAIDE

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## Background/Approach:

22% of South Australians with hepatitis B are ethnic Chinese. Almost half are unaware of it. The rest are often not in care. In partnership with health professionals and local Chinese community groups, we provided information sessions, fibroscans, HBV testing and vaccination, and set up a Chinese language information support service.

## Analysis/Argument:

Many recent arrivals from the People's Republic of China (PRC) face barriers including language, isolating social circumstances and unfamiliarity with the local healthcare system.

Hepatitis B awareness is higher among PRC Chinese than among Southeast Asian Chinese, but they face difficulty accessing services. High literacy rate facilitates knowledge increase via printed information. Most Chinese are comfortable with mobile/internet services; Chinese language newspapers have good reach; there are organised activities for older Chinese providing contact opportunities for engagement, and Chinese language schools provide avenues for contact with younger parents.

We focused on developing pathways for hepatitis B beyond information provision, to liver health assessment, HBV testing and vaccination; and providing a culturally-friendly information/support service to facilitate access to services.

## Outcome/Results:

Estimated over 1,400 people engaged, including 213 at information sessions; 550 who contacted the information support service; over 110 people who were tested for hepatitis B; 245 who were fibroscanned and 32 vaccinated. Hepatitis B referrals from Chinese GPs for Chinese patients to the Central Adelaide Local Health Network viral hepatitis clinic increased.

Twelve online bulletin board articles received over 7,377 reads. Two articles both published in two Chinese newspapers with combined circulation of 9,000 in over 50 locations.

**Conclusions/Applications:**

Chinese community is keen on hepatitis B testing, vaccination and monitoring if supportive pathways are provided. Cooperation with community groups, health professionals and mainstream services is vital in developing these pathways, as is the use of community-friendly communication channels.

**Disclosure of Interest Statement:**

The authors have no affiliations or involvement with any entity with a financial interest in any of the matters discussed in this presentation.