

Needs Assessment for hepatitis B clinical auditing and/or case finding: Enablers and barriers to a national scoping project.

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Background: The Needs Assessment for hepatitis B clinical auditing and/or case finding scoping project built upon Australasian Society for HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexual Health Medicine's (ASHM) successful Beyond the C pilot project and framework, assessing the feasibility of implementing a national case-finding and clinical audit initiative focusing on hepatitis B in primary care. The purpose of the project was to identify areas for action, if a need was deemed present, by identifying ways in which a proposed hepatitis B clinical auditing and/or case finding project could support clinicians to increase diagnosis, monitoring and management of hepatitis B in primary care settings. Through the methods used, a series of enablers and barriers to the needs assessment methodologies were identified.

Methods: Assessment methodology included a review of internal ASHM projects, a desk review of past and current hepatitis B (and other relevant conditions) auditing initiatives in primary care and stakeholder consultations in the form of semi-structured interviews.

Results: Limited information about previous projects was found during the desk review. ASHM was able to identify opportunities for synergies with existing ASHM projects and build upon learnings. ASHM conducted 34 stakeholder consultations throughout 2022. Enablers identified were diversity in stakeholders, use of semi-structured interview methodology, and opportunity for additional consultation once feedback was consolidated. The barriers identified were, time and resources required to consolidate feedback from a large number of participants, participation from stakeholders already engaged with ASHM's work and/or the sector, and limited time to conduct interviews.

Conclusion: There is a need for diverse sector consultation when developing a project to be implemented within primary care, however, time and resourcing are important considerations to ensure that the methodology and information gathered from consultations are maximised. The sector would also benefit from more opportunities to present and write up findings on similar projects to support future work.

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