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# **Nurses' experiences implementing point of care Hepatitis C antibody and RNA testing in community settings for people who inject drugs**

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**The QuickStart Study**

## Pros

- Curiosity → engagement
- Familiarity with RAT testing
- POC testing = visual aid (cognitive impairment; ABI)
- Opens pathway to further testing
  - Confirmatory venepuncture = same day
- Time to result = beneficial conversations
- RNA status within hours, not days or weeks (GeneXpert®)



## Cons

- Not complete diagnosis
- Venepuncture (BBV and safety labs)
- Specialist equipment and training
- Space required GeneXpert®
- Sample errors (re-testing)
- Time to result
- GeneXpert® amount of sample required (100  $\mu$ L)
- Winter/cold/dehydration and poor circulation
- Living rough & calloused hands



## Conclusions

POC rapid testing using fingerstick highly acceptable to PWID in the study

Visual results provide tangible proof of the presence of HCV antibody

✓ Most participants were more open to having venepuncture/learning status

Time to result (OraQuick®) or to perform the test (GeneXpert®) created space for engagement

Reduced number of visits to the clinic welcomed

Time to result (GeneXpert®) is a consideration for PWID in the context of outreach settings

*Thanks to the all the study participants who gave so generously of their time*

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