

Navigating Migration and Hepatitis B: FAQ Visa and Migration Resource

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Background/Approach:

Hepatitis B virus (HBV) is a leading cause of chronic liver disease, contributing to morbidity and mortality. In Australia, individuals with HBV and their families often experience anxiety due to mandatory health assessments for visa applications by the Department of Home Affairs. Limited information on how HBV status affects visa eligibility adds to their stress, with some individuals historically denied visas for not meeting health requirements. To address these challenges, the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) resource was developed to guide individuals with HBV in navigating the migration process in Australia.

Analysis/Argument:

The FAQs were developed in response to the growing number of inquiries received through LiverLine and HepLink Australia. Recognizing the need for reliable, culturally appropriate information, a group of individuals with lived experience of HBV who had undergone the migration process collaborated with epidemiologists, legal experts, and public health specialists to produce this resource. Multiple rounds of expert consultations were conducted to ensure the resource is accurate, comprehensive, and user-friendly, providing practical guidance for individuals living with HBV.

Outcome/Results:

Informal feedback from individuals with lived experience during the consultation phase has been overwhelmingly positive. Users reported it reduced confusion, eases anxiety, and enhances the understanding of their rights and responsibilities in the migration process. Additionally, it empowered individuals to seek medical and legal support while

raising awareness among healthcare professionals and migration agents about the challenges faced by people living with HBV.

Conclusions/Applications:

The success of the FAQ resource highlights the importance of integrating lived experience with professional expertise in public health interventions. It has reduced stress and misinformation, improved health literacy, and strengthened healthcare-migration sector collaboration.

Next Steps:

- Expand the resource into multiple languages.
- Evaluate its impact through user surveys.
- Advocate for policy recognition to integrate it into migration health assessments, ensuring long-term benefits for individuals with HBV.

Disclosure of Interest Statement: LiverWELL acknowledges funding support from the Department of Health, Victoria, which underpins our work in viral hepatitis advocacy, prevention, and support. Our initiatives are informed by the invaluable contributions of community members, dedicated volunteers, and individuals with lived experiences of viral hepatitis. LiverWELL operates as an independent, not-for-profit organisation committed to improving the health and wellbeing of people impacted by or at risk of liver disease. We maintain strict governance and accountability measures to uphold transparency and integrity in all our activities. We declare no conflicts of interest that would unduly influence the content or conclusions of this submission.