

## **DAILY DOSING OF DIRECT ACTING ANTIVIRALS (DAA) FROM A PUBLIC OPIOID SUBSTITUTION TREATMENT (OST) PROGRAM FOR MARGINALISED CLIENTS IN KINGS CROSS, SYDNEY**

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**Introduction:** The Kirketon Road Centre (KRC) is a publicly funded primary health care service in Kings Cross, Sydney. KRC provides prevention, treatment and care of viral hepatitis with a focus on people who inject drugs and operates a targeted OST program. The aim of this study was to describe outcomes of delivering daily dosing of DAAs to clients of the OST.

**Methods:** All clients attending the OST from March 2016 to February 2018 were included and classified by those known to be positive for hepatitis C RNA, those initiating treatment, completing treatment, and those tested for SVR12. Demographic and clinical characteristics were obtained from the clinical database.

**Results:** A total of 122 clients participated in KRC's OST program for at least 4 weeks during the two-year period. The mean age was 36 years, 53% were female and 48% Aboriginal. The median duration in OST during the time period was 44 weeks. Hepatitis C status was able to confirmed in 102 clients, of whom 67 (66%) were RNA positive. Of these, 52 (78%) commenced DAAs, 42 dosing daily or weekly and 10 self-managing. Among these clients, 48 (92%) completed treatment with 29 tested at SVR12 thus far, all of whom were cured. Reasons for not initiating treatment included: incarceration, relocation, and loss to follow-up. Of the clients treated, 30 (58%) were also receiving psychiatric medication through KRC's OST, 24 (46%) were homeless, 50 (96%) reported current drug use, 25 (48%) sex workers, 7 (13%) were co-infected with HIV.

**Conclusion:** This study demonstrates that a flexible model of care, including daily or weekly dosing of DAAs through an OST program, can achieve high treatment completion and cure rates for marginalised clients. Reasons for not commencing DAAs or confirming SVR12, were often due to the transient nature of this population.

The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

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