

MORE THAN JUST 12 KILOMETRES: A COMPARISON OF THE CHINESE AND VIETNAMESE COMMUNITIES LIVING WITH HEPATITIS B IN THE BRISBANE SOUTH PHN.

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Background: The largest Chinese and Vietnamese populations in Queensland are located in the Brisbane South Primary Health Network (PHN). The 2017 Viral Hepatitis Mapping Project identified these two populations as having the highest proportion of people living with Chronic Hepatitis B (CHB) in Australia. The Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland (ECCQ) provides support, through a free Fibroscan service, to General Practices (GPs) for culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) patients with CHB. ECCQ provides its' service through a GP referral pathway, and in addition to Fibroscan, a knowledge and behavior assessment and patient support and education service by Bi-lingual Community Health Workers (BCHW) is undertaken.

Analysis: A review of de-identified information obtained from patients during Fibroscan and BCHW assessment completed between July 2017 and March 2019 from these communities was performed. The review aimed at identifying any differences between engagement in Specialist care and treatment uptake between the two communities. For the Chinese community, patients who advised as born in China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Malaysia and Macau were included.

Outcome: Information obtained from 314 patients from the Chinese community was reviewed. 107 (34%) identified as engaged in Specialist care, 19 (18%) of whom see a Specialist overseas and 28 (9%) identified as currently receiving treatment with 9 people prescribed medications by their overseas doctor. Information from 336 patients born in Vietnam was reviewed. 61 (18.1%) identified as engaged in Specialist care, and 31 (9.2%) are currently prescribed treatment. All of whom see a Specialist and were prescribed treatment in Australia.

Conclusion: This review identified the potential for unexplored data relating to care and treatment uptake due to proportion of patients particularly from the Chinese community seeking care overseas. Also people from the Chinese community appear more likely to be in the care of a Specialist compared to those in the Vietnamese community, the contributing factors to this could be explored.

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