

Point of Care Blood Borne Virus Testing for Clients Who Inject Drugs

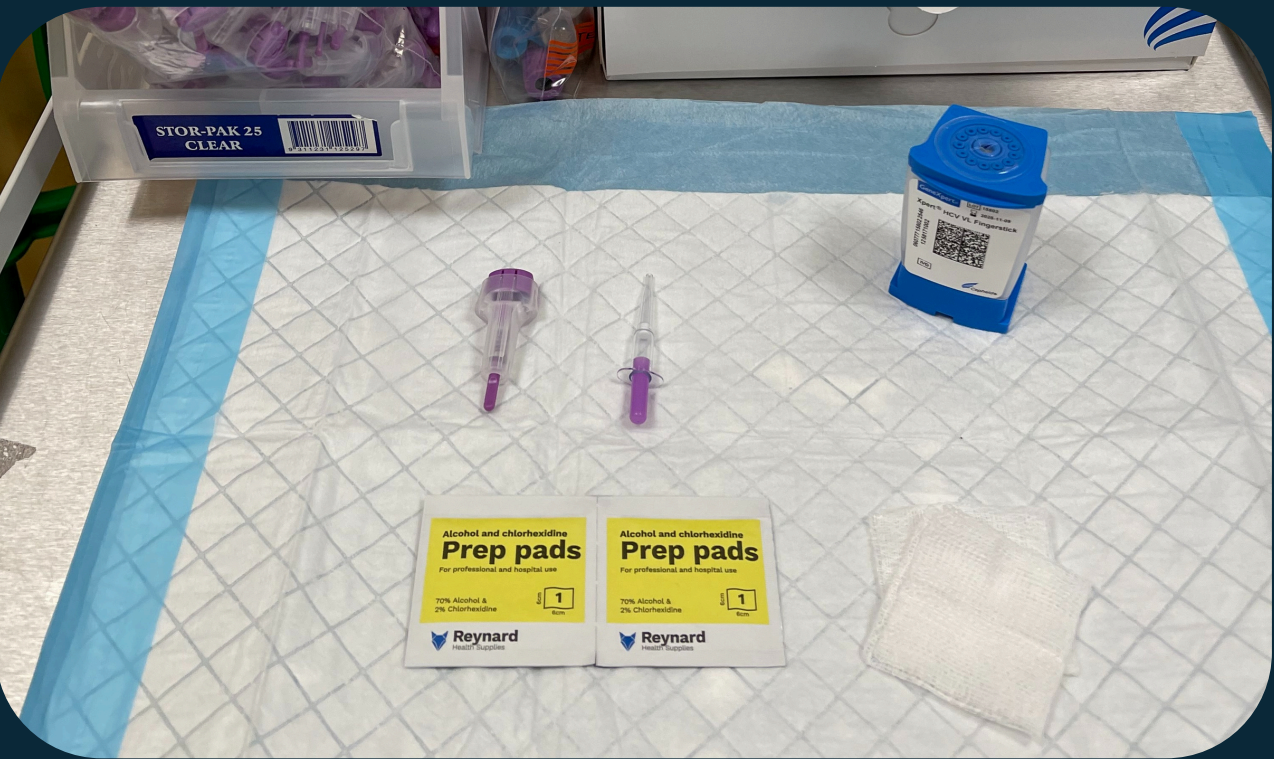
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Background

One of the busiest point of care (POC) testing sites in Victoria, the BBV clinic is a drop-in service offering Hep C POC testing to clients accessing the Medically Supervised Injecting Room

Working collaboratively with the Kirby Institute's National Australian HCV POCT Program and St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne.

- 1289 total client registered with the clinic since 2020.
- 987 male, 290 female and 11 other/undisclosed
- 263 Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander clients
- 328 treatment initiations since 2020



2024 Results

447 individual clients were tested for Hep C

119 clients undertook testing for the first time

274 clients had venous pathology taken in addition to POC test

34 clients commenced on Hep C treatment

40 clients achieved Hep C cure

Prevalence of HCV positive clients estimated at 11% of clients

Many clients have negative health care experiences, venous access issues, and complex care coordination needs, including co-existing mental health disorders, drug use, and chronic conditions, as that can make consistent healthcare engagement difficult.

- The BBV staff provide:
- Assertive, individual management and support
 - Low-barrier access to testing and treatment
 - Engagement with clients through rapport, trust, and relationship building
 - Harm reduction education
 - Linkage to primary care and other external supports

Methodology

