

DEVELOPING A GP NETWORK IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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Background: Until 2017 there were only four community s100 prescribers in Western Australia, co-located in one inner metropolitan practice, with the majority of the 2000+ people living with HIV in the state accessing care from tertiary services. To address this shortfall, GP's were recruited, to create a network of s100 prescriber / shared care GP's, and to develop a process for WA specific training, mentoring and ongoing education and support.

Methods: A discussion with potential new GP's identified barriers and motivating factors to training and s100 prescribing. Local HIV physicians and experienced s100 prescribers worked with the Health Department and ASHM to organise funded local s100 prescribers training and clinical mentoring. Ongoing network meetings were organised to support new prescribers.

Results: In 2017, 30 participants attended WA's first s100 prescriber's course, recruited through ASHM and RACGP advertisement, and direct contact by HIV clinic staff. 6 GP's completed the examination and mentoring required to prescribe antiretroviral medication. In 2018 14 participants attended the course following a more specific recruitment process. 5 GP's completed training and mentoring

Participants from both courses formed the GP HIV Interest group, with three meetings per year to share information, discuss cases and receive advice from experienced s100 prescribers and HIV physicians from tertiary services. A further 10 GP's who did not complete training also attend.

35 patients have transferred their care to an s100 prescriber, with a further 20 having registered with a new GP for shared care.

Conclusion: WA now has 15 s100 prescribers, with increasing community-based HIV care although there are limiting factors including cost of medical and pharmacy services. In order to develop sustainable community services, GP's with small numbers of HIV positive clients require ongoing support from tertiary services to maintain knowledge and skills, and benefit from a peer-led GP network.

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