

Practical Solutions to Address Social Barriers for Hepatitis C Treatment Initiation Among People Who Inject Drugs

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Introduction

Reaching the remaining people living with hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection who are yet to be treated is critical.

Question

What motivates people to start HCV treatment?

Methods

Semi-structured interviews with 15 participants:

- HCV positive
- History of injecting drug use
- Delayed or no treatment in Victoria
- Thematic analysis

Results

1. Supportive relationships

More prevalent in **community primary care services or alcohol and other drug (AOD) services** than in standard care.

Key factors:

- **Non-stigmatising** environment
- Increased clinician **knowledge**
- **Prioritisation** by the clinician
- **Peer** support

2. Psychosocial support

Association with treatment readiness:

- Assistance with **housing** and **mental health**
- **Long-acting opioid agonist therapy**

3. Practical support

Practical assistance needed:

- **Navigating services**
- **Financial aid** for accessing services
- **Legal support**

Conclusion

Comprehensive support in community and AOD services along with **social outreach initiatives** is needed.

Contact

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Date prepared: 26/6/2024