

ALL STORIES MATTER IN HCV ELIMINATION

Param K¹, Higgins S¹, Orme C¹, Mitchell J¹, O'Beirne J^{1, 2}

¹Sunshine Coast University Hospital, Birtinya

²University of Sunshine Coast, Birtinya

Introduction:

The Hepatology Partnership (HP) is a nurse led Fibroscan outreach service operating through the Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay areas of Queensland that provides fibrosis assessment, education and support local to the patient. Following assessment, a treatment recommendation is made to the referring General Practitioner (GP). The success of this model of care can be measured in numbers treated and Sustained Virological Response (SVR) rates. However, client experience and the impact of the service on GP prescribing confidence are also critical.

Methods:

Number of patients assessed, treated and outcomes (SVR), including loss to follow up were acquired from the treatment database. Stakeholders (GPs and Patients) experience of the survey was assessed by a postal survey.

Results:

The SCUH story – Since September 2017, 973 patients underwent assessment (n=472 primary care, n= 501 correctional facility), 662 commenced or are undergoing treatment (n= 440 primary care, n=222 correctional). Intention to treat SVR rate 85%, per protocol was 95.6%. An estimated 1500 secondary care appointments were avoided and 70 patients with cirrhosis identified.

The client story- Of 150 surveys sent out 44 were returned (29.3%). >90% found the support and information from the liver nurse to be good or excellent. 96% would recommend the program to friends or family.

The GP story- Of 300 surveys sent out 56 were returned (20.3%). 65% had received no formal education on HCV treatment. 65% had referred 1-3 patients, 10% referred 7 or more. 56% rated the service as good or excellent. 49% described their confidence as poor or none using GESA guidelines alone.

Conclusion:

The HP was successful in treatment and patient experience however the low confidence of GPs despite this assistance and training suggests that these innovative models of care need to be maintained and expanded to reach the goal of HCV elimination.

Acknowledgements:

- I acknowledge those on whose land we stand, elders past, present and emerging.
- I acknowledge those living with Hepatitis C and those whom have contributed so we can learn.
- I acknowledge Indigenous Health Workers of Sunshine Coast & Wide Bay who have reached out to their people in the endeavour of healing and cure of HCV.
- Cure of HCV is a collaboration and I acknowledge the Australasian Society for HIV, viral Hepatitis and Sexual Health Medicine's contribution to professional

education and support, contributions of pharmaceutical companies, non-government organizations and the Hepatology Partnership team.

Disclosure:

Attendance at industry funded and run events:

- ASHM
- MSD
- abbvie
- Gilead