

THE DEVELOPMENT AND 6 MONTH REVIEW OF A NURSE PRACTITIONER CLINIC FOR HEPATITIS C TREATMENT IN RURAL VICTORIA.

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Disclosures:

- There is no disclosure of interest to be declared.



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BACKGROUND/AIMS & METHODS:

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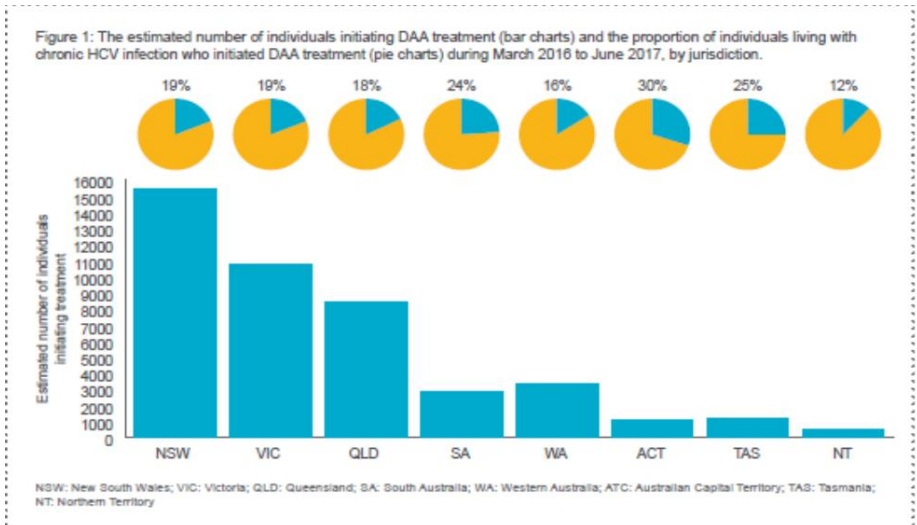
❖ Background

Since November 2016 General Practitioners (GPs) have been able to prescribe Direct Acting Antiviral therapy (DAA) for non-cirrhotic patients with chronic hepatitis C (HCV) infection but in this rural location few have chosen to take advantage of this opportunity to treat.

Patients with HCV were being treated by the visiting Gastroenterologists to Goulburn Valley Health (GVH), with patients waiting 6-12 months to be seen to receive treatment with in excess of 100 patients on the wait list.

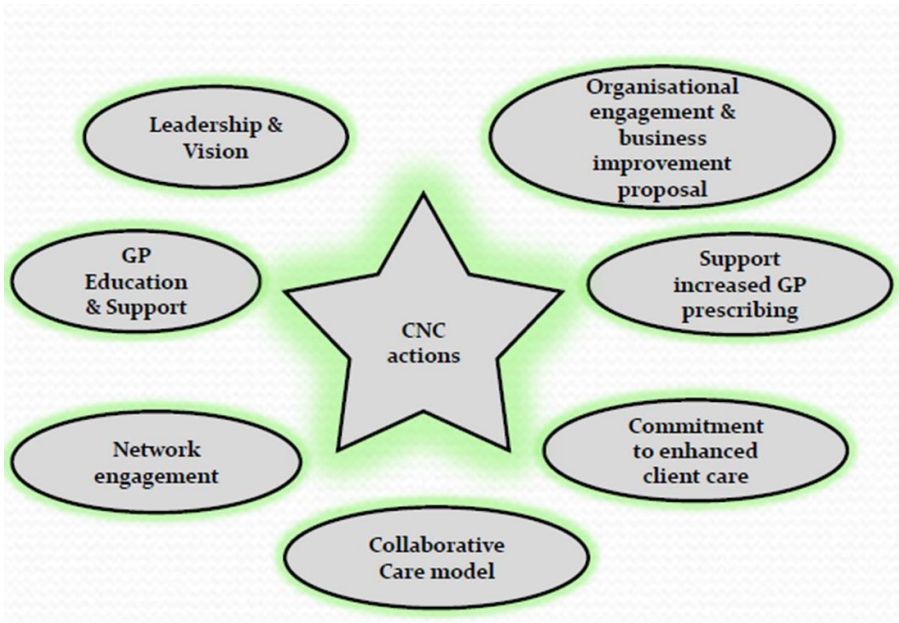
From June 1, 2017 the Victorian government approved authorised Nurse Practitioners (NPs) to be able to prescribe under the PBS General Schedule (s85) medications for the treatment of HCV.

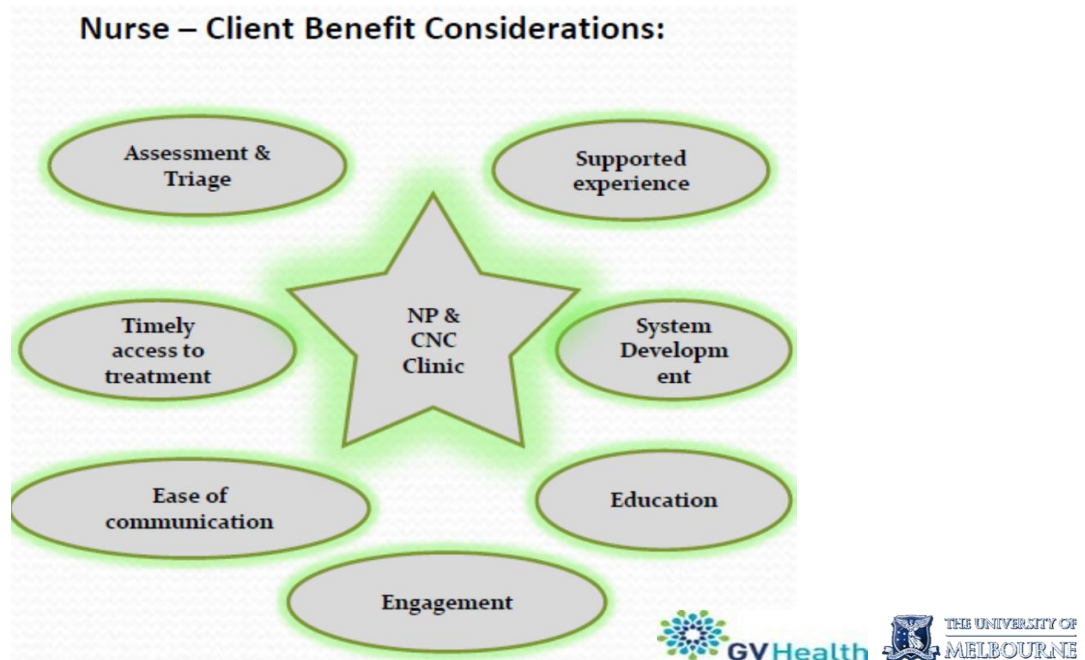
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<https://kirby.unsw.edu.au/report/monitoring-hepatitis-c-treatment-uptake-australia-issue-8-december-2017>

(Accessed 26/09/2018)





RESULTS:

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Outcomes:

- A reduction in the Gastroenterology / Hepatology waiting lists and time to be seen.
- The medical staff are able to concentrate on the patients who will benefit from an earlier appointment and who are more unwell.
- Non-cirrhotic and uncomplicated HCV patients are able to be seen and treated more quickly.
- HCV patients who are seen and managed by the NP are not seen by the Gastroenterologist.
- Creation of further HCV management networks outside the immediate organisation.
- Increase in the profile of HCV treatment in the Goulburn Valley.
- Permits a timely response and short time to treatment for new client referrals.
- Community based satellite NP HCV treatment / management clinics are being established in other smaller rural towns .

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Outcome

Demonstration of a successful nurse-led and managed HCV treatment service that is acceptable to clients, specialists and local GPs.



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