

## Interim outcomes of a tiered hepatitis C education and training program for community pharmacists

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### Background/Approach:

EXPAND-C provides two innovative community pharmacy-based models of hepatitis C virus (HCV) testing and linkage to care, to reach people not yet engaged in care. While community pharmacists may be familiar with HCV through dispensing of direct-acting antivirals, they are less likely to have skills around identifying who should be tested, initiating testing conversations, testing procedures and linking to care. We present the EXPAND-C pharmacist training program and implementation outcomes.

**Analysis/Argument:** Training program components for community pharmacies were tiered by site, and included a general resource, Nurse-led site components and Pharmacist-led site components. The general resource consisted of a refreshed and accredited “Hepatitis C Pharmacy Support Toolkit” inclusive of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) credits, aligned with Australian Pharmacy Council standards and made freely available to all pharmacists. Completion of a five-question quiz provided pharmacists with a CPD certificate contributing two credits toward annual requirement of 40 credits. Nurse-led sites participating in EXPAND-C received face-to-face HCV education delivered by an EXPAND-C nurse and pharmacist. In addition to activities of the Nurse-led sites, Pharmacist-led sites required compulsory completion of the Pharmacy Toolkit quiz; ASHM Point-of-care test (POCT) Infection Control and INSTI<sup>®</sup> Antibody testing online modules; and one-hour interactive education session delivered online or in person by the EXPAND-C pharmacist.

**Outcome/Results:** As of February 2026, 60 EXPAND-C pharmacists (50 Pharmacist-led, 10 nurse-led) had completed the Pharmacy Toolkit quiz. Face-to-face education has been delivered to pharmacists at 42 Nurse-led sites. Across 14 Pharmacist-led sites, 57 pharmacists attended training (49 online and 8 in person) and 38 completed the ASHM POCT online modules.

**Conclusions/Applications:** The EXPAND-C tiered training program can be feasibly implemented across diverse pharmacy settings, effectively supporting pharmacists to deliver HCV testing and care, demonstrating strong potential for scalability, sustained capability building, and broader community health impact.

**Disclosure of Interest Statement:**

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