

## **From consultation to action: Converting a hepatitis B clinical auditing and/or case finding needs assessment into a pilot initiative**

### **Authors:**

O'Halloran S<sup>1</sup>, Mondel A<sup>1</sup>, Purcell I<sup>1</sup>, Stewart S<sup>1</sup>, Alam N<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> ASHM Health, Sydney, Australia

**Background/Approach:** In 2022, ASHM conducted a needs assessment on hepatitis B (HBV) clinical auditing and/or case finding to assess the feasibility of implementing a national initiative focusing on HBV in primary care within Australia. This project identified that there was a need, and proposed ways in which a HBV clinical auditing and case-finding project would be most effective in supporting clinicians to increase diagnosis, monitoring, and management of chronic hepatitis B (CHB) in primary care settings. From these findings, ASHM developed an evidence-based pilot project and framework that was used to effectively advocate for funding. ASHM is now in the process of progressing this pilot project.

**Analysis/Argument:** This approach demonstrates a commitment to considered and quality work that is supported by consultation, data and process evaluation. When advocating for resourcing, such as funding to complete projects, a formative research approach assists with planning for outcomes to be achieved in the most effective way. This also enabled ASHM to leverage and maximise existing sector knowledge and resources.

**Outcome/Results:** The recommendations from the needs assessment formed the basis for pilot project planning, that were then refined with learnings from ASHM's National Beyond the C hepatitis C clinical auditing and case-finding program, and input from a steering committee.

Changes made to the direction of the pilot due to this consultation include the format and length of the cycle and work completed by clinics, how the roles within a practice are assigned, the approach to incentives and including a focus on data and coding.

**Conclusions/Applications:** This innovative approach, prioritising adequate consultation and planning ensures that challenges, and barriers are able to be anticipated and addressed early in project planning. Further information on the progress of the pilot development will be able to be reported at the conference.

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