

**“They shared a few stories you know...it makes it a bit more comfortable”: the importance of peers in engaging people for hepatitis C testing.**

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**Approach:** To achieve hepatitis C (HCV) elimination goals, innovative, adapted, and accessible models of care for people at risk are needed. *C No More* is an 18-month nurse- and peer-led mobile HCV pilot model of care implemented at three community corrections sites in Victoria. Operating three days/week, rotating sites monthly, the mobile clinic offers point-of-care screening and diagnosis with onsite linkage to nurse-led care, offering an accelerated treatment initiation pathway. People with lived/living experience of drug use, HCV treatment, and the criminal justice system (‘peer mentors’) front the service, approach people on the street adjacent to community corrections sites and engage them in HCV testing discussion utilising a pre-packed engagement pack of toiletries and snacks. A clinical nurse consultant undertakes testing and clinical assessment. Collection of participant data is undertaken by all staff, allowing extended engagement for peer-delivered harm reduction information exchange.

**Argument:** Programs designed and implemented by a multidisciplinary team, especially including peers, are necessary to improve the acceptability, accessibility and efficiency of services and increase HCV testing and linkage to care. Community corrections settings provide an avenue to offer testing and treatment to a large number of people who may be at risk of HCV and who may not have accessed services in prison or other community healthcare settings.

**Outcome:** Between September 2023 and Feb 2024, our peer mentors engaged 232 people for HCV testing, exchanged harm reduction information including HCV prevention and advice (n=63), distributed sterile needles/syringes (n=101), and naloxone (n=10), and provided information about local services (n=15).

**Applications:** The nurse- and peer-led model of care is a successful multidisciplinary partnership to engage people in HCV testing and treatment. This mobile model of care, utilising point-of-care testing and streamlined treatment initiation is adaptable to many non-healthcare settings.

**Disclosure of Interest Statement:**

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