

ENHANCED SELF-EFFICACY FOR HCV MANAGEMENT AMONG PEOPLE PARTICIPATING IN A HCV EDUCATION PROGRAM FOCUSED ON DRUG AND ALCOHOL AND PRIMARY CARE SETTINGS

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Background: Education programs may be helpful in training a multidisciplinary health workforce in HCV management, but there are few that have been developed and evaluated. The aim of this study was to evaluate changes in self-efficacy for HCV management among attendees participating in an HCV education program focused on primary care and drug and alcohol settings.

Methods: The “Hepatitis C in Primary Care and Drug and Alcohol Settings Education Program” was developed by ASHM in collaboration with the Kirby Institute, UNSW Sydney, and adapted for delivery internationally in partnership with INHSU. The Program consists of: 1) Online learning modules (www.inhsu.org/education-program); 2) Full day interactive face-face workshop; 3) Tailored capacity strengthening toolkit. Participants completed a self-administered survey (pre-course and immediately post-course) between Sept 2017-Feb 2020. A 5-point scale was used to measure self-efficacy (score ≥ 3 out of 5 related to confidence in HCV testing, management and treatment).

Results: Overall, 838 participants attended one of 43 HCV education sessions across Canada (45%), the United Kingdom (14%), France (11%), Portugal (10%), Sweden (8%), Italy (7%), and Spain (6%). Participant professions included physicians (33%), nurses (38%), and other (29%). Participants were from services including primary health care centers (19%), drug treatment clinics (47%), hospital-based clinics (7%), community health services (4%) and other (22%). Among participants who completed pre- and post-HCV education evaluations (n=545), there was an increase in the proportion of people who reported \geq average confidence with respect to regular screening (44% vs. 80%, $P<0.001$), interpretation of HCV test results (19% vs. 74%, $P<0.001$), advising patients about new HCV therapies (9% vs. 74%, $P<0.001$), and HCV treatment/management (4% vs. 65%, $P<0.001$).

Conclusion: Self-reported confidence (self-efficacy) related to HCV management and treatment improved immediately following the delivery of this HCV educational program. Further work is

needed to evaluate the sustained impact of this education, including long-term self-efficacy and enhanced HCV testing and treatment.

Disclosure of Interest Statement: The authors recognise the considerable contribution that industry partners make to professional and research activities. We also recognise the need for transparency of disclosure of potential conflicts of interest by acknowledging these relationships in publications and presentations.