

## **Culture, community, and (point of) care: hepatitis B point of care testing for multicultural communities through the LiverCare program**

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### **Background/Approach:**

Hepatitis B (HBV) continues to be a significant public health issue in Australia with little progress over the past decade. Hepatitis NSW's LiverCare program provides multicultural communities with access to in-language, comprehensive liver health screening and care. The aim of this study was to evaluate HBV and HCV testing and prevalence among people accessing the LiverCare program.

### **Analysis/Argument:**

LiverCare is a community-focused series of high-intensity liver screening outreach events led by Hepatitis NSW and delivered in collaboration with community, researchers, and clinical staff. Program evaluation is supported through the Australian HCV Point-of-Care Testing Program, an observational study evaluating scale-up of point-of-care HCV testing at sites across Australia. LiverCare testing events consist of participant consent, completion of a behavioural survey, point-of-care HCV (INSTI test) and HBV testing (Determine II test); liver disease assessment (FibroScan), and a nurse consultation (delivery of results and referrals for care). Participants receive a \$30 reimbursement. Much of LiverCare is conducted in language by staff and interpreters, with study documents available in 5 languages.

### **Outcome/Results:**

Between February 2025 and February 2026, 336 people received point-of-care HBV testing at 8 outreach events with Vietnamese, Chinese, Filipino, and Tongan communities. The median age was 66, 76% were female, and 96% were born overseas. HBV prevalence was 3.3% (11 of 336). 4 individuals were not in care and 3 new diagnoses were provided. All participants were subsequently engaged in ongoing care. 76% were unaware of their HBV status. HCV antibody prevalence was 0% (0 of 290). Overall, 10% had a FibroScan score  $\geq$ F1.

### **Conclusions/Applications:**

High-intensity outreach campaigns integrating community-based liver disease screening, point-of-care HBV testing, and language competency provide a unique opportunity for engagement in HBV care. Further work is needed to identify how best to target campaigns to populations at greatest risk of advanced liver disease and chronic HBV infection.

### **Disclosure of Interest Statement:**

This project is supported by HepLink, administered by Hepatitis Australia and funded by the Australian Centre for Disease Control. Hepatitis NSW has received funding from Gilead Sciences Inc. for the delivery

of this program. Point of Care Testing supplies were provided through the National Australian Hepatitis C Point of Care Testing Program, sponsored by The Kirby Institute, UNSW, and funded through the Commonwealth Department of Health, the National Health and Medical Research Council, Cepheid, Gilead Sciences, and AbbVie.