

Community pharmacy-based models of care for hepatitis C testing and linkage to care: interim results from a national cohort study

Elsun I, Allardice K, Mackie KF, Guzman R, Teasdale A, Anderson J, Bryant M, Richmond J, Higgs P, Nieslen S, Amanda J Wade*, Joseph S Doyle* on behalf of EXPAND-C project team (*joint senior authors)



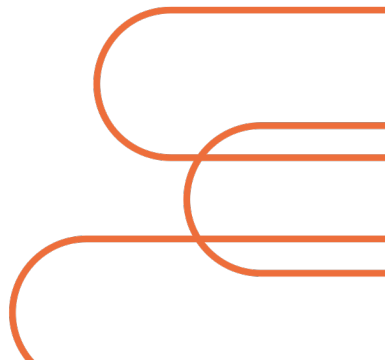
Burnet
reach for the many

Disclosures



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Pharmacy based testing and linkage to care



Target population: PWUD receiving Opioid Agonist Therapies (OAT)

Rationale:

- >57,000 OAT users in Australia*- many attend pharmacies
- < 50% PWUD starting OAT get tested for HCV*

Pharmacy:

- Most frequently accessed health service
- Distribution - Pharmacies Australia-wide
- Accessible walk in healthcare service
- Regularly attend OAT dispensing
- Pharmacists' existing relationship with OAT community customers
- Pharmacists' willingness to increase scope of practice and partner with healthcare providers

* National Opioid Pharmacotherapy Stats Annual Data Collection, 27Mar2026

* Griffin, S et al *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, Volume 82, Issue 3, 15 March 2026





EXPAND-C: Two Models

Nurse-led pathway



Pharmacist offers HCV information and referral to nurse



In consult room: consent and INSTI Hepatitis C Antibody test



In consult room: INSTI positive offer venipuncture



Results + RNA positive link to care of choice



Nurse navigation: RNA positive to treatment

Pharmacist-led pathway



Pharmacist offers HCV and INSTI information and testing



In consult room: consent and INSTI Hepatitis C Antibody test



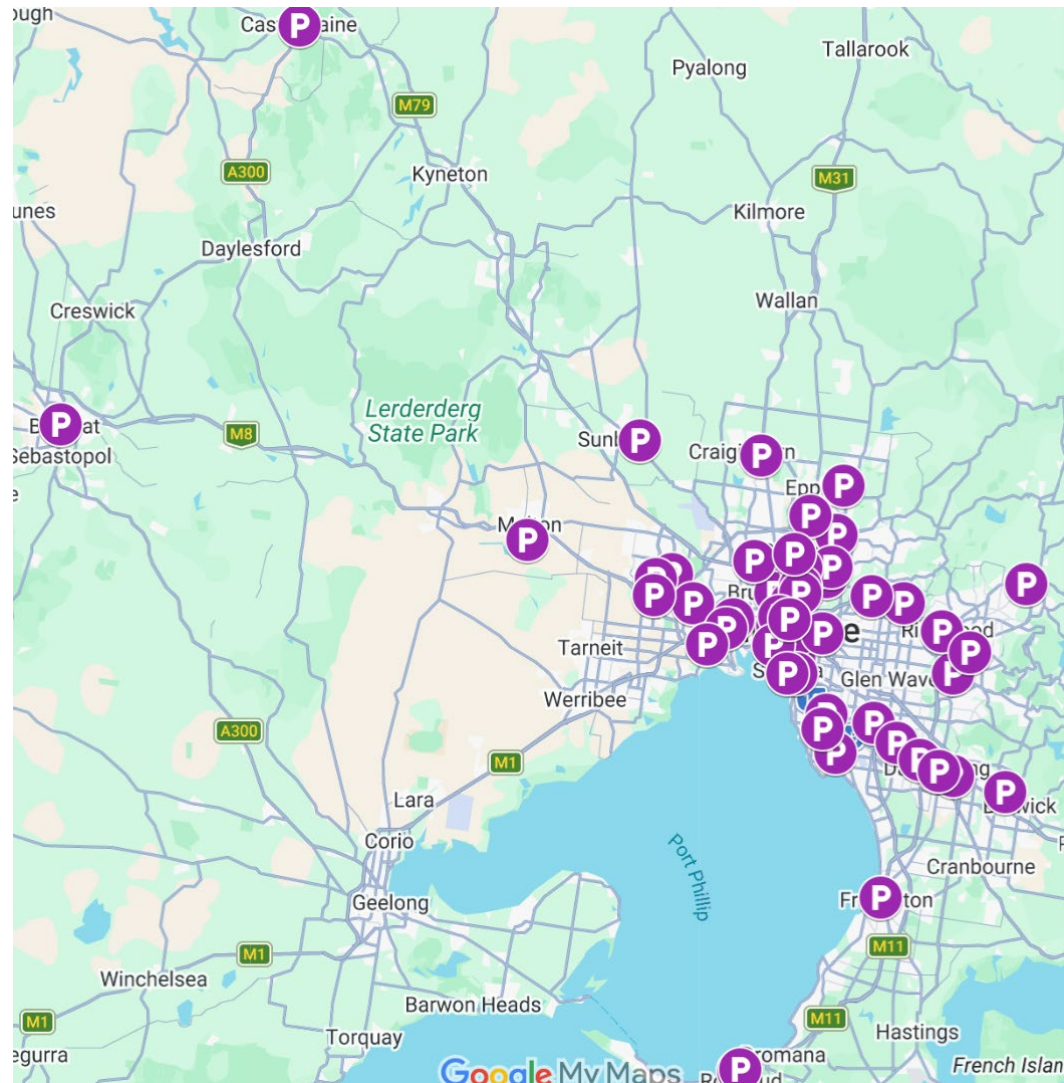
In consult room: INSTI positive link to care of choice



Nurse navigation: Ab+ contact and support

Sites – total 85

Nurse-led
Sites: 54



Pharmacist-led
Sites: 31



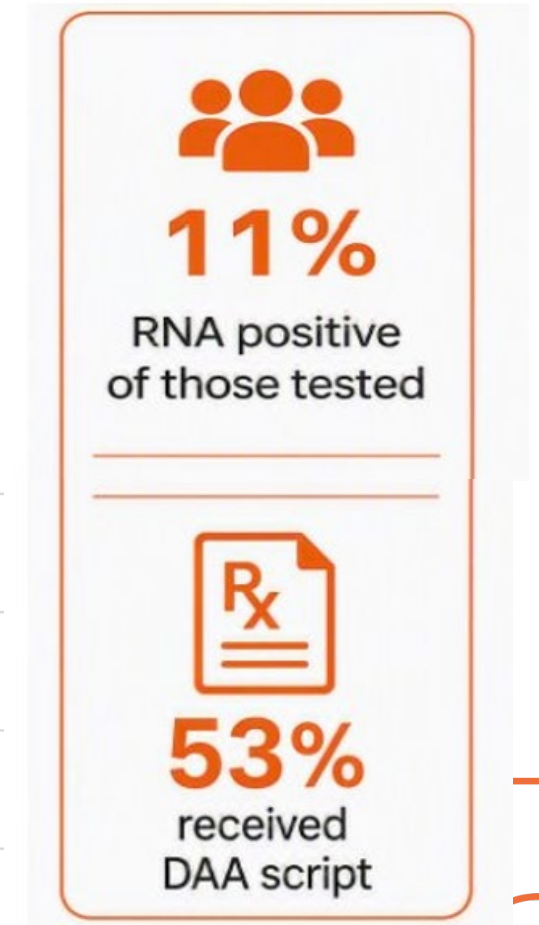
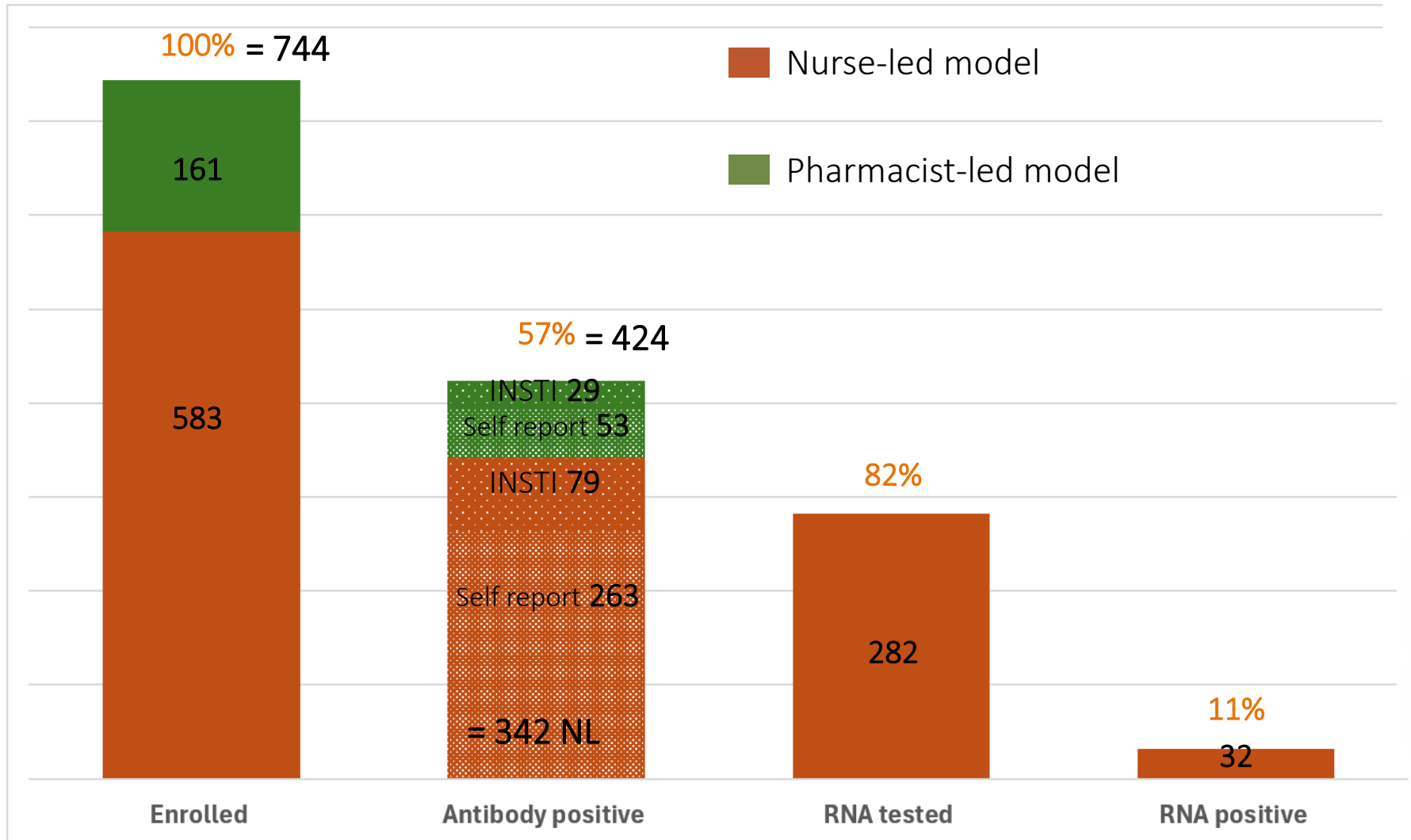
Care Cascade HCV antibody and RNA testing



	Nurse-led	Pharmacist-led	Total
Total number recruited (to 27 July 2026)	583	161	744
Unknown HCV Ab status - INSTI [®] tested	313/583 (54%)	107/161 (66%)	420/744 (56%)
INSTI [®] HCV Ab tested = positive	79/313 (25%)	29/107 (27%)	108/420 (26%)
Self-report HCV Ab positive status known (past test/tx)	263/583 (45%)	53/161 (33%)	316/744 (42%)
INSTI [®] HCV Ab+ and self-report HCV Ab+ known status	342/583 (59%)	82/161 (51%)	424/744 (57%)
Number HCV RNA tested (Nurse-led only)	282/342 (82%)	N/A	282/342 (82%)
Number who were HCV RNA positive (Nurse-led only)	32/282 (11%)	N/A	32/282 (11%)
Number rec'd prescription ITT (follow up incomplete)	17/32 (53%)	N/A	17/32 (53%)



Care cascade for hepatitis C antibody and RNA testing





Conclusions

- Offering consumers POCT in community pharmacies is showing promising signs as an accessible healthcare opportunity.
- Diagnosis is just the beginning
- Additional support to bridge the gap to further testing and treatment (nurse or peer) has advantages.
- Qualitative assessment of acceptability and feasibility are in progress



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EXPAND-C team

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Partners

Community pharmacists!
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