

# Improving Engagement in Chronic Hepatitis B Care Through a Nurse-Led Community Model

## Authors:

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**Background/Approach:** Chronic Hepatitis B (CHB) is a significant public health issue in New South Wales (NSW) with over 60% of patients not engaged in clinical care. Traditional specialist-led CHB care in NSW is resource-intensive and often results in delayed treatment initiation, fragmented follow-up, and increased healthcare costs.

**Analysis/Argument:** Chronic Hepatitis B (CHB) is a significant public health issue in New South Wales (NSW) with over 60% of patients not engaged in clinical care. Traditional specialist-led CHB care in NSW is resource-intensive and often results in delayed treatment initiation, fragmented follow-up, and increased healthcare costs.

**Outcome/Results:** Between January 2022 and December 2025, a total of 181 participants were enrolled in the nurse-led CHB community program within the Western Sydney Local Health District (WSLHD). During this period, four participants withdrew consent due to relocation, two were discharged to their primary care providers because of non-compliance, and two were lost to follow-up. Overall, the program achieved a retention rate of 95% and a six-monthly surveillance compliance rate of 68% over a two-year follow-up period.

**Conclusions/Applications:** Implementation of a nurse-led care model was associated with improved patient engagement and increased compliance to HCC surveillance. The model offers an inclusive and sustainable approach to improve patient engagement, reducing tertiary healthcare burden and bridging the gap in CHB care. Compliance with HCC surveillance should facilitate early liver cancer diagnosis, thereby optimize patient outcomes and reduce long-term treatment costs. Disclosure of Interest Statement: Nil