

## Setting Targets towards Elimination – Monitoring NSW Progress

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**Background/Approach:** The NSW Ministry of Health (Ministry) has made the elimination of hepatitis C (HCV) a system priority in NSW. Achieving this goal requires a coordinated approach to scale up HCV treatment across all NSW Local Health Districts (LHDs) and the Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health Network (JHFMHN).

**Analysis/Argument:** The Ministry drives performance by setting treatment initiation targets which are monitored via annual LHD Service Agreements. Prevalence modelling and treatment projections were completed with the Kirby Institute, UNSW in 2017 and 2020. Kirby Institute modelling indicated that 4,190 people need to be treated each year across NSW to achieve WHO elimination goals by 2028. This modelling was used to develop individual treatment initiation targets for each LHD and JHFMHN and drive performance.

**Outcome/Results:** NSW reports Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme dispensing data of DAA initiations quarterly to monitor LHD progress towards KPIs and HCV elimination. NSW has treated 45% of people (31,946) estimated to be living with HCV, saving an estimated \$96,476,865 in avoided care costs. This includes 5,184 people in NSW prisons (41% of whom identified as Aboriginal).

**Conclusions/Applications:** LHD treatment targets allow for Chief Executives to identify priority areas for action and for NSW Health to monitor progress towards elimination, however they are not the only solution. Unmet targets identified that multiple approaches are required to enable equitable treatment access for PWID-related priority populations.

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