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## Background

In QLD, prison health services are the responsibility of individual hospital and health services, translating to significant variation in hepatitis C (HCV) treatment uptake and a range of unique models of care throughout the state. Recognising the importance of targeting this population for HCV treatment and the unique challenges of this transient environment, ASHM convened a forum on HCV treatment in QLD prisons on 23 February 2018.

## Objective

- Bring together prison health staff and those providing in-reach/tele-health services to discuss challenges and solutions in moving towards eliminating HCV from QLD prisons.

## Approach

Five QLD prison services presented on their HCV treatment models of care. Small group brainstorming sessions enabled all service groups to evaluate their current screening, treatment and management processes and identify opportunities for improvements within the care cascade.

## Outcomes

The forum was attended by 57 participants, including representatives from each QLD prison. From the respondents who completed an evaluation, 100% agreed that the objective of the forum had been met and that they found the event to be useful. A set of recommendations were produced based on the discussions throughout the forum. The recommendations were disseminated to attendees and made available publicly.

### Quotes: 2018 Forum Evaluation

*“Truly enjoyed this forum, believe it will create follow-on benefits to our consumers”.*

*“This was a great event - made lots of great connections and got lots of excellent ideas”.*











*“It challenged current practices and paved a way forward”.*

*“So wonderful to not only network but to share what is happening on a local level and brainstorm”.*

*“Hearing from other service providers has further fueled my enthusiasm to do more in my work place”.*

*“Comparison to other services allows opportunity to implement strategies that have proven benefit”.*

## Recommendations: 2018 Forum

-  1. All people in Queensland prisons should have **access** to timely HCV testing, treatment and care.
-  2. Establish a key **contacts list** of HCV care teams in each prison to promote continuity of care when patients are transferred.
-  3. Implement regulation 24 scripting, allowing **all medication** to be dispensed at once.
-  4. At treatment work-up, request patient **post-release contact details** and permission to follow up in the community if required.
-  5. Provide all patients with an **envelope** containing any results, treatment documentation, pathology form, letter to GP and/or community service details to contact upon release.
-  6. Establish an efficient and effective **fibrosis evaluation procedure**.
-  7. **HCV education** for all clinical and non-clinical prison staff.
-  8. Establish a dedicated **BBV/HCV nursing portfolio** in each prison.
-  9. Implement **OST** programs and other **harm reduction** measures.
-  10. Implement **HCV point of care testing** if approved for use in Australia.

