

## HEPATITIS C ANTIBODY TESTING TREND PRE AND POST UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO DIRECT ACTING ANTIVIRALS IN AUSTRALIA: SEGMENTED REGRESSION OF PRIMARY CARE CLINIC DATA.

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### Background:

Scaling up testing is fundamental to Australia achieving hepatitis C elimination goals. We describe patterns of hepatitis C virus antibody (HCV Ab) testing in primary care prior to and following the listing of Direct Acting Antivirals (DAAs) on the pharmaceutical benefits scheme (PBS).

### Methods:

Clinical consultations, HCV Ab test and results collated by the Australian Collaboration for Enhanced Sentinel Surveillance (ACCESS) from 32 primary care sites across Australia. Individuals contributed one consult, one test and one result per quarter. Segmented regression assessed trends in HCV Ab testing and positivity pre-DAAs (Q1 2009–Q1 2016) and post-DAAs (Q2 2016–Q2 2018) PBS listing. Analysis were stratified by clinic type: gay and bisexual men (GBM)-focussed, people who inject drugs (PWID)-focussed and 'Other' community health and general practice sites (clinics without a specific priority population focus).

### Results:

In total, 3,558,761 consultations were included, 43.8% from GBM, 28.9% from PWID, and 27.3% from other clinics. A total of 185,211 HCV Ab tests were included and 8.5, 3.2 and 2.0% of total consultations included a HCV Ab test at GBM, PWID and other clinics, respectively. At GBM clinics, there was an increasing trend in HCV Ab testing pre-DAAs, which continued post-DAAs (246 tests/quarter, 95%CI:182-310), with an overall positivity of 2.4%, which has stabilised since March 2016 (-0.04%, 95%CI:-0.08, 0.005). At PWID and other clinics, Ab testing trends increased pre-DAAs and have since plateaued (PWID:1.8 tests/quarter, 95%CI:-14,17; Other:4.0 test/quarter, 95%CI:-7,15). Overall positivity remained high among PWID clinics (14.4%) and has increased since March 2016 (0.45%, 95%CI:-0.12,1.01) compared to Other clinics where positivity was lower 3.8%, and has stabilised since March 2016 (-0.04, 95%CI:-0.24, 0.16).

### Conclusion:

Improving testing coverage among priority populations is an important step for Australia to achieve hepatitis C elimination, while monitoring trends in HCV Ab positivity can inform efforts to identify new infections.

**Disclosure of Interest Statement: none**