

ABORIGINAL HEALTH IN ABORIGINAL HANDS: HOW AN ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY CONTROLLED ORGANISATION IS WORKING TO ELIMINATE HEPATITIS C

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Background:

The Hepatitis C Elimination project started in partnership with Western Australia Primary Health Alliance (WAPHA) in 2019 to identify patients with hepatitis C. In 2021 Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service Aboriginal Corporation (DYHSAC) partnered with *Australasian Society for HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexual Health Medicine (ASHM)* to participate in the “Beyond the C” project aimed at identifying, recalling and treating patients with Hepatitis C.

Hepatitis C identification is an ongoing continuous quality improvement project at DYHSAC.

Approach:

DYHSAC instigated the following initiatives to accurately identify, recall and offer treatment to patients:

- Creating clinical items to support accuracy of report generation.
- The appointment of Aboriginal Health Practitioners (AHPs) and a Sexual Health Nurse as ‘Hepatitis Champions’
- Development of reports from medical software to identify patients with chronic Hepatitis C or treatment for the condition.
- Collection of data from patient laboratory results, progress notes, external referral letters to assist in the identification and recall of patients.
- Reviewing and updating patient reminder and recall systems.
- Analysing medical recorded data for confirmatory evidence of completion of Hepatitis C treatment.

Outcomes/Impact: Derbarl Yerrigan has completely treated more than 54% of patients with Chronic Hepatitis C and aims to have all patients identified with chronic hepatitis C either be offered treatment or have completed treatment by 2025

Innovation and Significance: Hepatitis champions, Hepatitis C registers and a proactive approach have enabled DYHSAC to provide an ongoing systematic approach to offering treatment to the appropriate patients. Funding to eliminate hepatitis C should be directed towards interventions led by Aboriginal people and supported by Aboriginal communities.

Disclosure of Interest Statement

“Derbarl Yerrigan Health services recognises the considerable contribution of the ASHM in facilitating the “Beyond the C” project. We also recognise the need for

transparency of disclosure of potential conflicts of interest by acknowledging these relationships in publications and presentations.”