

IMPROVED HEPATITIS B TESTING AND MANAGEMENT AMONG GPs THAT HAVE COMPLETED S100 HEPATITIS B COMMUNITY PRESCRIBER PROGRAM TRAINING

Van Gemert C^{1,2}, El-Hayek C¹, Jose H³, Towell V³, Haynes K³, Govindasamy S³, Hellard M¹.

1 Burnet Institute

2 Centre for Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Melbourne School of Global and Population Health, University of Melbourne

3 Australasian Society for HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexual Health Medicine

Background: The Hepatitis B s100 Community Prescriber Program (“Prescriber Program”), administered by ASHM, has provided training and support for Australian GPs to prescribe hepatitis B virus (HBV) treatment since 2013. We measured changes in HBV diagnostic testing and monitoring among GPs that completed the program between 2013 and 2017.

Methods: HBV testing data were collated from laboratories participating in the ACCESS surveillance system. Tests included HBV surface antigen (HBsAg, alone or alongside other tests), guideline-based HBV tests (HBsAg, hepatitis B core antibody and hepatitis B surface antibody tests in one test event) and relevant monitoring tests. GPs that completed the Prescriber Program were requested to supply their Medicare provider number/s and date of program completion; these were then matched to ACCESS data. The mean number of HBsAg, guideline-based HBV and monitoring tests requested by GPs per month were calculated for three and twelve months pre- and post-program completion.

Results: Among 246 GPs that completed the Prescriber Program between 2013-2017, Medicare provider numbers were obtained from 137 and 59 matched the ACCESS data set. Among these, 38 were excluded and 21 GPs were included in the analysis. GPs requested more guideline-based HBV tests each month after program completion (increase of 2.6 [$p < 0.05$] and 1.8 tests per month over 3 and 12 months, respectively), and fewer HBsAg tests per month after program completion (decrease of 1.6 and 1.3 tests per month over 3 and 12 months, respectively). GPs also requested more monitoring tests after program completion (increase of 0.3 and 0.2 tests over 3 and 12 months, respectively).

Conclusion: GPs made positive changes to HBV testing and monitoring after completing the Prescriber Program. The strongest changes in testing behaviour were observed in the immediate three months after program completion and therefore it is prudent to explore strategies for more sustained behaviour change.

Disclosure of Interest Statement: This work was funded by Australasian Society for HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexual Health Medicine.