

## 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 clinics across Australia were included. 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: those specialising in the health of gay and bisexual men (GBM) or people who inject drugs (PWID) and 'Other' community health and general practice clinics.

**Results:** Of the 3,558,761 clinical consultations included, 43.8% were from GBM, 28.9% from PWID, and 27.3% from other clinics. Overall, 185,211 (5%) resulted in a HCV Ab test; 8.5%, 3.2% and 2.0% 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 (post trend 246 tests/quarter, 95%CI:182,310) and 2.4% of tests were positive. Positivity stabilised post-DAAs PBS listing (-0.04%, 95%CI:-0.08, 0.005). At PWID and Other clinics, Ab testing trends increased pre-DAAs and then plateaued (1.8 tests/quarter, 95%CI:-14,17 and 4.0 test/quarter, 95%CI:-7,15 respectively). Overall positivity remained high among at PWID clinics, 14.4% of tests were positive, and increased post-DAAs listing (0.45%, 95%CI:-0.12,1.01). At Other clinics overall positivity was lower 3.8%, and has stabilised post-DAAs listing (-0.04, 95%CI:-0.24, 0.16).

**Conclusion:** Ongoing national surveillance data has shown that testing uptake plateaued post-DAAs in clinics where the proportion HCV Ab tests is highest. Improving testing coverage among priority populations is critical for Australia to achieve hepatitis C elimination.

**Disclosure of Interest Statement:** *See example below:* The conference collaborators recognise the considerable contribution that industry partners make to professional and research activities. We also recognise the need for transparency of

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