

Conducting a Needs and Assets Assessment for Mothers Living with Hepatitis B in South Eastern Sydney Local Health District

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Background: The NSW Hepatitis B Strategy identifies mothers living with hepatitis B virus (HBV) as a priority population. In South Eastern Sydney Local Health District (SESLHD) little is known about this population and their engagement in HBV care and monitoring post-partum. A Needs and Assets assessment was commenced to identify the gaps in accessing health services and also the opportunities and resources available. The assessment will assist SESLHD to improve the community's health and wellbeing by informing future priorities with this population.

Methods: The needs and asset assessment involves the following:

- Completed literature review
- Completed review of SESLHD Public Health Unit mandatory HBV reporting data
- Completed key stakeholder interviews
- Interviews with mothers living with HBV planned for January 2022

The project has been overseen by a Steering Committee of key stakeholders and received ethics approval from the HREC.

Results: Analysis of data found the majority (82%) of mothers who birthed from Jan 2019 to March 2021 living with HBV were from CALD backgrounds, with no women identifying as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. The average age was 35 years. The majority (80%) of mothers had access to Medicare however only 41% (n=47) had previously or currently accessed HBV specialist care. Key stakeholder interviews identified barriers navigating complex health care systems and a need for female interpreters/translators. Assets include a small cross cultural workforce, antenatal HBV screening and education programs, and availability of translated HBV resources.

Conclusion: The needs and assets assessment is providing valuable insights in to this priority population. The outcomes of the assessment will aim to inform future programs and activities within SESLHD to support the health of this population. This is important if SESLHD is to meet the goals and targets of both the NSW and National Hepatitis B strategies.

Disclosure of Interest: None