

4 years on. Providing GPs access to Fibroscan for CALD community members affected by viral hepatitis in South East Queensland.

Authors:

Black. M¹, He. N¹, Do. T¹, Seok. JS¹, Pe. E¹, Kabonga, L¹, Mujawamariya, A¹, and Gu. Z¹.

¹ Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland

Background: The Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland (ECCQ) received funding in 2017 from Queensland Health (QH) for a 4-year Program to provide support to General Practitioners (GPs) in the care of patients with hepatitis B (HBV) or C (HCV) from culturally and linguistically diverse communities (CALD) in South East Queensland (SEQ). The Program provides direct support through the employment of bi-lingual community health workers to support and educate to the patients in their home language, and a nurse to provide a Fibroscan procedure and assist GPs in the care of their affected patients.

Methods: The Program initially google searched and used word of mouth to identify potential GPs, who identified as CALD, and potentially supporting the most represented populations – Vietnamese and Chinese speaking, and quickly moved to engaging GPs from multiple CALD backgrounds.

Results: Between July 2017 and June 2021, the nurse and a BCHW met with 314 GPs from 118 different practices and supplied up-to-date information to promote screening, management and monitoring of affected patients, and how to refer for a Fibroscan. In this time period 1925 referrals for Fibroscan were received from 108 individual GPs from 64 different practices. 1617 people were referred with chronic HBV or immune from past infection, and 292 with either chronic or past HCV. Patients were from 58 countries of birth and spoke 52 different languages at home. During this time 381 people have been referred by their GPs for a surveillance Fibroscan.

Conclusion: Provision of education, support and Fibroscan to GPs assists their decision making and recommended care of patients with HBV and HCV. Additionally, through affected patients receiving culturally and linguistically appropriate education of the importance of regular monitoring, we hope to see further increases in the number of people diagnosed, monitored and treated in SEQ in primary care.

Disclosures:

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Nil conflicts of interest