

NEVER FEAR- POLAR IS HERE; A NATIONALLY AVAILABLE TOOL FOR CHRONIC HEPATITIS B MANAGEMENT IN GENERAL PRACTICE

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Background: Currently, 1.5% of the population of Central and Eastern Sydney Primary Health Network (CESPHN) region is living with Chronic Hepatitis B infection (CHB); making it the third highest PHN region for CHB in Australia.

While CHB can be monitored and managed appropriately in primary care, this is not done well with only 23.9% of people requiring it, receiving treatment and monitoring in the region.

The *Clinical Audit in Viral Hepatitis (CaViH)* project aims to support general practice to identify and manage CHB in primary care. In December 2017, the project released a CHB audit tool nationally via Pen Computer Systems, for practices holding a CAT4 licence.

Analysis: *CaViH* has developed CHB algorithms for the cloud-based POLAR in-practice auditing tool from Outcome Health. POLAR extracts information daily from GP clinical software and translates it for review to improve patient outcomes; e.g. opportunistic screening, vaccinations and monitoring for people living with CHB.

Outcome: In February 2019, POLAR CHB algorithms were released for Beta testing. Two GP practices with POLAR (free licence through PHN) can identify patients with:

- one or more CHB risk factors.
- a CHB diagnosis.
- relevant test results e.g. ALTs, HBV DNA, platelets, cirrhosis, ultrasounds etc.

Specialist nurses have used the tool to deliver clinical education sessions with practice staff using in-practice cohorts; action missing monitoring indicators, assess for treatment; and/or triage patients for referral to local liver clinics.

In this presentation, POLAR will be demonstrated for a GP clinic audit using the data from a test site.

Applications: This tool has been developed and tested to assist general practice to better manage patients who have, or are at risk of, CHB from a whole of practice perspective. The tool facilitates analysis of routinely collected data and may enhance liaison and linkages between specialist and primary care.