

## **A MODELLING ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL INCENTIVES FOR HEPATITIS C TESTING AND TREATMENT UPTAKE DELIVERED THROUGH A COMMUNITY-BASED TESTING CAMPAIGN**

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### **Background:**

Retaining people with chronic hepatitis C in care is key for hepatitis C elimination. Financial incentives may encourage people to attend appointments and reduce opportunity costs associated with people who become lost to follow up. Using data from a community-based testing campaign, we determined the impact that different financial incentive amounts would need to have on retention in care to maintain the same unit cost per (1) RNA positive person completing testing (defined as awareness of RNA status) and (2) RNA diagnosed person initiating treatment.

### **Methods:**

Costing and retention in care data were obtained from a 2019 community-based testing campaign focused on engaging people who inject drugs. For different financial incentive amounts, we modelled the corresponding improvements in retention in care that would be needed to maintain the same overall (1) unit cost per RNA positive person completing testing and (2) unit cost per RNA diagnosed person initiating treatment.

### **Results:**

In the testing campaign the unit cost per RNA positive person completing testing was A\$3,215, and the unit cost per RNA diagnosed person initiating treatment was A\$1,055. The modelling found that an incentive of A\$500 per RNA positive person completing testing would result in more people completing testing for the same unit cost, if the percentage of attendees receiving their test results increased from 63% to 74%. An incentive of up to A\$200 per RNA diagnosed person initiating treatment would result in more people initiating treatment for the same unit cost, if the percentage initiating treatment increased from 67% to 82%.

### **Conclusion:**

Monetary incentives for completing testing and initiating treatment may be an effective way to increase retention in care without increasing the overall cost per cure, particularly in settings with high rates of loss to follow up.

### **Disclosure of Interest Statement:**

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