

HepLOGIC: a primary care intervention to improve viral hepatitis and liver cancer outcomes – pilot and feasibility study

Authors:

Allard N^{1,3}, MacLachlan JH^{1,2}, Savage A¹, Tran L^{1,2}, Adamson E⁴, Eagle M⁵, Pearce C⁶, Dore G⁷, Cowie BC^{1,2,8}

¹ WHO Collaborating Centre for Viral Hepatitis, The Doherty Institute, ²Department of Medicine, University of Melbourne, ³cohealth, ⁴The Burnet Institute, ⁵LiverWELL, ⁶Outcome Health, ⁷The Kirby Institute, UNSW, ⁸Victorian Infectious Diseases Service, Royal Melbourne Hospital

Background/Approach: Liver cancer is the fastest increasing cause of cancer death in Australia. Most of these cancers are preventable, with chronic viral hepatitis causing the majority. Clinical decision support systems (CDSS) can be tailored to individual patients and are potential interventions to increase testing and improve management of viral hepatitis, and therefore contribute to preventing deaths due to liver cancer. More evidence is required to understand design and implementation considerations that can influence CDSS uptake and use by Australian clinicians.

Analysis/Argument: We have developed a CDSS intervention integrated with primary care electronic medical records and workflows to improve guideline-based screening and management of viral hepatitis. We have implemented the CDSS in a pilot and feasibility study in 20 Victorian primary care clinics, where it is being evaluated for acceptability and sustainability using the RE-AIM framework.

Outcome/Results: Initial evaluation of the intervention has highlighted factors that influence the implementation and uptake of a disease-specific CDSS tool in primary care. Critically, ensuring the intervention does not interfere with clinical workflows, and works to target those at greatest risk of viral hepatitis or advanced liver disease based on epidemiological and clinical parameters, are key considerations.

Conclusions/Applications: Based on this pilot and feasibility study, key findings and recommendations will be presented regarding the design and implementation of CDSS aiming to improve screening and management of viral hepatitis. These recommendations apply to broader diagnosis and management of chronic conditions in Australian primary care.

Disclosure of Interest Statement: No relevant disclosures to declare.