

Eliminate Hepatitis C General Practitioner Peer Education Project (GPEC-SA)



Supporting improved screening and treatment in a high incidence area of Adelaide, South Australia

We provided in-house GP to GP education and support with testing and treatment of hepatitis C to 38 high caseload clinics located in the northern suburbs of Adelaide.

A data driven approach was used to systematically prioritise and target GPs serving postcodes where there were likely to be greater numbers of people living with untreated hepatitis C.

The project reached GPs unfamiliar with the key changes in hepatitis C treatment.

- The GP champion encouraged and upskilled their peers to treat patients in primary care as opposed to referring them to hospitals and specialists.
- Before the project, very few of these GPs (17%) had ever prescribed the pangenotypic direct-acting antivirals.



Image: Dr Erin Oliver-Landry spearheaded this GP to GP education in the northern suburbs of Adelaide.

Success Factors



Increased GPs' awareness of the key changes to hepatitis C treatment options.



Provided tools, resources and support to allow GPs to treat their patients in primary care vs referring them to specialist care.

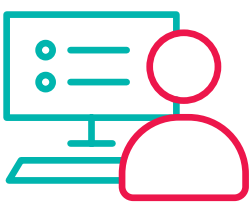


Familiarised GPs with local pathways to refer their patients if needed, and strengthened relationships for collaboration on future projects.

Outcomes



Reached **more than a third** of targeted GP practices in Northern Adelaide (38 out of 105).



14 clinics have agreed to perform an audit of their clinical software systems to identify high-risk patients in their database who require screening or potentially have yet to be treated.



120 GPs participated in the project.



23 Nurses working in GP clinics attended the education session.

Ongoing initiatives

- ✓ The **Viral Hepatitis Nurses** continue to assist GP clinics to perform clinical software audits to recall high-risk patients.
- ✓ With **continuing education and promotion**, we are keeping hepatitis C on GP agendas to increase screening numbers.
- ✓ The initiative will be **rolled out to GP registrars** as part of their specialty training education program.

An EC Australia project
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