

Creating champions of change

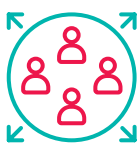
Galvanising the healthcare workforce to support the elimination of hepatitis C

In 2020-21, the Australasian Society for HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexual Health Medicine (ASHM) delivered a series of educational activities, and evaluated ‘Beyond the C’, a clinical audit and case-finding project to enhance hepatitis C testing, treatment, and care.



Outcomes

Educational Activities



- When the COVID-19 restrictions halted face-to-face events, ASHM pivoted quickly to ensure health professionals were able to continue accessing high-quality education to support their work.
- Moving to an online format, 99 Nurses and 48 Nurse Practitioners participated in the Hepatitis C Nursing courses and the Hepatitis C for Nurse Practitioners courses.

- Key themes in the way attendees identified clinical practice change resulting from the training included:
 - Increased screening, testing and treatment provision.
 - Improved knowledge, and access to education and resources.
 - Knowledge and confidence to manage patients in primary care settings.

Beyond the C

- Beyond the C recruited 27 sites across 9 Primary Health Networks including 3 sites in regional centres, 9 in rural settings, 1 remote and 1 very remote locality.
- The virtual design of the project provided the ideal environment for supporting enrolled practices with their case-finding and clinical auditing Quality Improvement (QI) activities.
- Participants indicated the project made tangible improvements to practices’ ability to identify, recall, test, and treat patients with hepatitis C.



Learnings

Educational Activities

- ✓ Moving to an online format provided increased accessibility and flexibility of learning and development opportunities, particularly at a time when the health workforce had reduced capacity and experienced competing demands due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Beyond the C

- ✓ Practices demonstrated strong interest in hepatitis C care and identifying people who are at risk, previously tested and/or not treated.
- ✓ Strong interest but varied knowledge of principles of Plan, Study, Do, Act (PDSA) and QI across practices.
- ✓ Relationships with local networks such as Primary Health Networks and Local Health Districts are key to supporting practices to ensure a sustainable model of QI.

Applying our Learnings

Educational Activities

- ✓ The Hepatitis C Nursing courses will be further adapted to include short foundational self-paced modules, allowing the facilitated content to focus on the interactive, practical implementation of concepts.

Beyond the C

- ✓ Following a successful pilot project and the valuable information gained from the evaluation funding support from EC Australia, the program will be scaled up and launched in November 2022. Visit www.beyondthec.com.au

An EC Australia project [Learn more burnet.edu.au/ec-australia](http://burnet.edu.au/ec-australia)

