

The global theme of this year's World Hepatitis Day on 28 July is '*Hep can't wait*' calling for a push towards the global aim of eliminating viral hepatitis by 2030. Hepatitis B is a leading cause of liver cancer in Australia and though it cannot be completely cured, regular monitoring and treatment throughout life can reduce serious sequelae.

There are many ways general practitioners can contribute towards the elimination of hepatitis B and prevent liver cancer and other complications.

Testing for hepatitis B infection is critical for priority populations who include:

- People from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- Pregnant women

For people known to be living with hepatitis B, key components of care are:

- Regular monitoring of disease progression
- Timely commencement of antiviral therapy
- Patient education on care and prevention of transmission
- Testing and vaccination of families and other contacts

Dispelling the myth of the 'healthy carrier' and reducing stigma around hepatitis B is also very important and complements clinical management.

There are a variety of resources available to help you and your patients in managing hepatitis B. GPs can contact their local hospital Liver Clinics for clinical advice and their Public Health Units for help with contact tracing. For patients there are many websites offering useful information:

- <https://www.hep.org.au>
- <https://mhahs.org.au/index.php/en>
- <https://www.hepatitisaustralia.com/>