

Hepatitis B Pathways to Care

Hepatitis B Pathways to Care is a collaboration between Sydney Local Health District (SLHD), Public Health Unit (PHU), Gastroenterology and Liver Service (G&L) and Central and Eastern Sydney Primary Health Network (CESPHN). The aim is to provide additional support to GPs and patients to improve outcomes for people with hepatitis B. The program is available to all GPs whose patients live within SLHD.

People with chronic hepatitis B have a high risk of future progression to liver cancer and cirrhosis and end-stage liver disease – outcomes substantially avoided by appropriate and timely treatment.

This initiative is particularly important in SLHD which has one of the highest hepatitis B burdens in Australia, largely affecting people born overseas. Stigma surrounding hepatitis B compounds other difficulties they may experience in gaining access to regular, appropriate, and affordable care.

The support available includes:

- Assistance with patient management through the G&L service:
 - o Development of a management plan
 - o Referral for management and/or antivirals, if required
 - o Cirrhosis care
 - o FibroScans
- The G&L service will also support patients directly with education on living with hepatitis B, reinforcing the importance of monitoring and treatment, and reducing transmission risk.
- Staff of the Public Health Unit will, with your agreement, counsel family members and other contacts regarding hepatitis B risk and encourage them to attend primary care providers for screening, vaccination, or care as appropriate.

The approach is based on [best practice guidelines](#) adopted by the Gastroenterological Society of Australia, which are reflected in the management advice contained in [Health Pathways Sydney](#).

When the Public Health Unit receives a new hepatitis B notification, a letter and questionnaire is sent to the ordering GP to introduce the project and if requested, the team will be in contact to support you.

If you have any questions or want to discuss further with the Public Health Unit, please email SLHD-CDteam@health.nsw.gov.au or call the PHU on **9515 9420** and ask for the hepatitis B project team.