

We Can't Wait to Act on Viral Hepatitis!

[World Hepatitis Day](#) on 28 July is reminder to test, treat or link your patients into care for hepatitis C. This year's theme 'We're not waiting' is a call to accelerate elimination efforts of viral hepatitis and the urgent need for testing and treatment for the people who need it.

In 2016 a cure for Hepatitis C became available on the PBS for everybody with a Medicare Card regardless of their ongoing risks.

Our local GPs have been doing a great job of curing hepatitis C, prescribing 29% of hepatitis C treatments in CESP HN between 2016 and 2021.

The estimated prevalence of hepatitis C in CESP HN is greater than the national average, and it is estimated that 8,400 people in CESP HN are still living with hepatitis C who need to be cured. We need to find and treat these people if we are to reach the NSW Goal to end Hepatitis C by 2028.

South Eastern Sydney Local Health District, Sydney Local Health District and CESP HN can GP support in identifying and managing their patients living with hepatitis C. These initiatives include:

- **Community Nurse Consultants** are available to help your practice with strategies for identifying and recalling patients at risk of chronic hepatitis C, staging of liver disease (FibroScan assessment, APRI - AST to Platelet Ratio Index scoring) and support in prescribing Hepatitis C treatments. (Contact list below)
- Tools such as [POLAR](#) can identify patients who have been previously diagnosed or who are at risk of hepatitis C. QI PIPs are available – speak to CESP HN about accessing this program with a viral hepatitis quality improvement project.
- [HealthPathways](#) have been developed to provide clinicians with information regarding management of hepatitis C and B including referral pathways.
- [Beyond the C](#) program is designed to guide general practices in quality improvement activities. On completion of the program practices receive an incentive payment of \$1500 and contribute to your RACGP CPD hours under the Measuring Outcomes category
- Projects such as [Motivate C](#) provide offers of cash rewards to encourage people living with hepatitis C to seek treatment.
- Alternative methods of testing are available through the [NSW Dried Blood Spot Project](#) and the [Kirby Institute Point of Care Testing](#) for hepatitis C. Both projects allow for diagnosis through a finger stick blood spot. These can be accessed through the Local Health District Nurse Consultants.
- CESP HN has its own [Hepatitis Strategy 2021-2025](#) which provides guidance to support GPs in managing hepatitis.

To access these services, please contact your Local Health District Service:

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