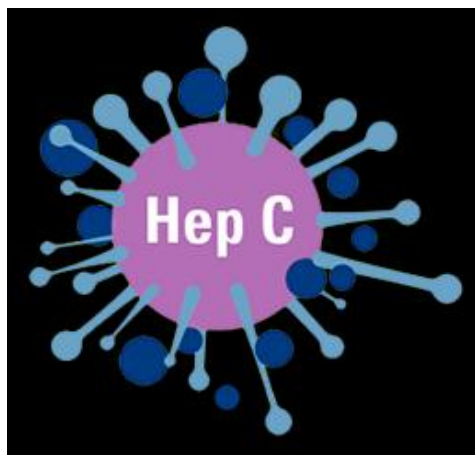


Hepatitis C: A resource guide for alcohol and other drug services

Hep C targets and treatment



The World Health Organisation (WHO) has set targets to reduce new Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) infections by 80% and HCV-associated deaths from liver disease by 65% by the year 2030.

In order to achieve these targets, appropriate treatments need to reach those that need them to eliminate infection and prevent the risk of transmission to others.

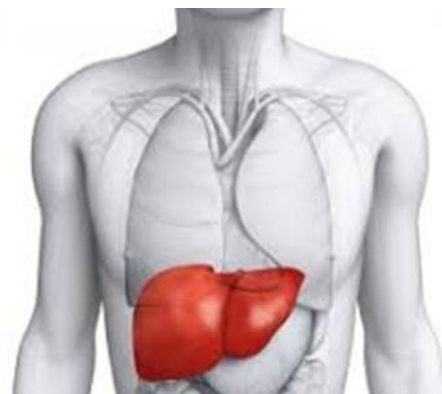
In Australia, new direct acting antiviral medications were made available on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) in March 2016 to all people living with HCV, regardless of disease stage. The new treatments are well tolerated, come in tablet form, are relatively short duration (8-24 weeks, generally 12 weeks) and have very good outcomes (95-99% elimination rates).

WANADA Hepatitis C Virus

Treatment Project: Increasing access of alcohol and other drug service users to Hepatitis C Virus testing and treatment

In response to the PBS listing and commitment to the WHO goal, Australian states and territories are making efforts to increase the number of people tested and treated for HCV. The Eliminate Hepatitis C Australia Partnership, coordinated by the Burnet Institute and funded by the Paul Ramsay Foundation, is a targeted national response to a decline in the uptake of HCV treatment.

Through the EC Australia Partnership, WANADA was funded in 2020/2021 to conduct a capability building project for the WA alcohol and other drug sector. Further funding was received from Sexual Health & Blood-borne Virus Program Communicable Disease Control Directorate WA Department of Health to continue this work in 2022 - 2025.



Key populations at risk of HCV infection and transmission, i.e. people who inject drugs, people who have injected drugs in the past, prisoners, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, make up a significant percentage of people accessing specialist alcohol and other drug services.

This guide is to support alcohol and other drug services to increase access to HCV information, testing and treatment for service users at risk of HCV infection and transmission. It includes a list of specific Hepatitis C resources as well as links to sites containing many more relevant resources. The first part of the guide includes quick reference tools, the latter part of the guide has more comprehensive Hepatitis information. Resources are categorised according to target audience.

For health workers

Source and description	Format	Resource
EC Partnership https://ecpartnership.org.au/resources	Infographic 1 page	Starting the conversation Getting someone ready for treatment Hepatitis C Treatment Follow-up Required

For medical workers

Source and description	Format	Resource
Hepatitis WA https://www.hepatitiswa.com.au/ Clinical indicators, risk factors, assessment, testing and treatment pathway and checklist	A suite of clinical resources	Clinical Resources
Australasian Society for HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexual Health Medicine (ASHM) https://ashm.org.au/learning-hub/hepatitis-c/	A suite of clinical guides and educational resources	Decision making in hepatitis C Stigma and discrimination, no place in healthcare
EC Partnership https://ecpartnership.org.au/resources	Infographic 1 page	Pathways to liver fibrosis assessment for patients in primary care
Hep C Guidelines https://www.hepcguidelines.org.au/	Form 2 pages	Remote consultation request for initiation of Hepatitis C treatment

For service users

Source	Format	Resource
Peer based Harm Reduction WA https://harmreductionwa.org/resources/	Flyers for service users	Hep C Why Should I Care Hep C What Should I Do How we can help
Hepatitis Australia https://www.hepatitisaustralia.com/Pages/Categories/hepatitis-c	Hepatitis C information for service users	Hepatitis C symptoms
Harm Reduction Victoria https://www.hrvic.org.au/resources	A set of 8 info graphics A4 or	New Hep C treatment infographic Eligibility Side effects

	(coming soon) a set of 6 A3 posters	Tests Cure rates Medication Duration Adherence
Hepatitis NSW https://www.hep.org.au/	FAQ page	Common Questions Asked and Hepatitis ABC Comparison
AIVL - Australian Injecting and Drug Users http://aivl.org.au/	A short course covering living with HCV, testing and treatment.	Hepatitis C Pathways: A Harm Reduction Guide for Community Wellness
Hepatitis Victoria https://liverwell.org.au/resources/	A suite of resources including factsheets and brochures	https://liverwell.org.au/resources/ Language matters Know your rights Women and hepatitis
Australian Government Department of Health Department of Health Pharmaceutical Benefit Scheme (PBS) http://www.pbs.gov.au/pbs/home	Infographic 1 page	Hep C treatment journey

For Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people

Source and description	Format	Resource
Hepatitis WA http://www.hepatitiswa.com.au/resources/ Hepatitis A, B and C risk, transmission, vaccinations, testing, treatment, prevention, healthy eating.	16 page resource with graphics	All about hepatitis
Hepatitis NSW https://www.hep.org.au/product/yarnin-hep-c/	Booklet developed for Aboriginal communities	https://www.hep.org.au/product/yarnin-hep-c/
Australian Indigenous Health Infonet https://healthinfonet.ecu.edu.au/	A suite of resources and information including this audiovisual	Deadly Liver Mob: engaging Aboriginal people in viral hepatitis, HIV and sexual health services
Australasian Society for HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexual Health Medicine (ASHM)	9 brief audios	Hepatitis C information for Aboriginal people

http://allgood.org.au/ Hepatitis C virus, risk, transmission, treatment and prevention.		Hepatitis C information for Torres Strait Islander people
Government of WA Department of Health https://www.health.wa.gov.au/Silver-book/Notifiable-infections/Hepatitis-C Hepatitis C effects, tests, treatment and transmission.	4-minute video	How to treat Hepatitis C

For people with culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds

Source and description	Format	Resource
Australasian Society for HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexual Health Medicine (ASHM) http://allgood.org.au/ Series of short audios in: Chinese; Urdu; Punjabi; Bahasa Indonesia; Hindi; Tamil; Dari; Pashto; Khmer; Burmese; Karen; Thai; Lao; Vietnamese Tieng Viet; Bahasa Melayu; Dinka ee Jieng; Sona chiShona; Somali Af-Soomaali; Swahili (Kiswahili): Hepatitis C virus, risk, transmission, treatment and prevention.	9 brief audios for each language	Hep C information in 19 languages
Hepatitis Australia https://www.hepatitisaustralia.com/Pages/Category/hepatitis-c Arabic , Burmese , Chinese , Hindi , Italian , Khmer , Korean , Punjabi , Thai and Vietnamese .	A suite of infographic fact sheets in languages other than English	https://www.hepatitisaustralia.com/other-languages

Further Hepatitis C information available online

Source and description	Format	Resource
Department of Health Silver book: STI/BBV management guidelines https://www2.health.wa.gov.au/Silver-book Clinical presentation; testing; treatment; education; counselling and prevention; follow up; public health issues; notification information; epidemiology and real time notification.	Website	Notifiable-infections Hepatitis-C

Australasian Society for HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexual Health Medicine (ASHM) https://removingbarriers.ashm.org.au/ Multiple articles under the following headings: Understanding the barriers; recognising the barriers; and making a difference.	Website	Common barriers to seeking HCV treatment
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Treatment support

Organisation and description	Further information
Peer Based Harm Reduction WA Peer Based Harm Reduction WA (PBHRWA) provides HCV education, treatment and support. Engagement, case management and support are provided by a peer worker throughout treatment. This is a free service for injecting drug users. No appointment is required.	https://harmreductionwa.org/hep-c/ http://harmreductionwa.org/health-clinics/ (08) 9325 8387
Hepatitis WA – Deen Clinic Provides Hepatitis C testing, treatment and support. No referral is required. Hepatitis C treatments 100% bulk-billed (need to be eligible for Medicare). For people who do not have a GP, their GP is not treating hepatitis C, or they do not feel comfortable accessing them. GP for this purpose. People who are using drugs are encouraged to use this service if they do not feel comfortable in accessing their GP or do not have a GP. The clinic also accepts referrals from GP's and can support them to treat their patients. A Gastroenterologist is available to provide advice on complex cases.	https://www.hepatitiswa.com.au/the-deen-clinic/ https://www2.health.wa.gov.au/News/Treating-hepatitis-C (08) 9227 9800
Sexual Health Quarters: M Clinic LBTI friendly clinic that provides Hepatitis C testing. LinQ medical A GP service for men who have sex with men. Hepatitis C treatment provided.	https://www.mclinic.org.au/
WA AIDS Council https://waaid.com/	https://www.waac.com.au/stishappen-beproudtotest/

Hep C training providers

Source and description	Format	Training
PBHRWA – fee for service (\$100 per hour + \$50 for preparation). http://harmreductionwa.org/	Training at your site	Harm reduction and Hepatitis C training for alcohol and other drug workers and peers
Hepatitis WA https://www.hepatitiswa.com.au/	Training at your site	General Hepatitis C information

Source and description	Format	Training
Australasian Society for HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexual Health Medicine (ASHM) https://www.ashm.org.au/ Prevention and starting the conversation around HCV; HCV testing; treatment for HCV; and ongoing engagement with people in the NSP. These modules are designed for those working at the frontline of the NSP, with the goal of increasing ability and confidence to have conversations around HCV in the NSP and to link people to appropriate health services. These modules cover: HCV epidemiology, prevention and natural history; HCV testing and liver disease staging; Treatment options for HCV; and Monitoring, adherence and post-treatment follow-up. These modules are designed for medical practitioners working in drug and alcohol settings or with people who inject drugs. The first part of the training covers: HCV epidemiology, prevention and natural history; HCV testing and liver disease staging; Treatment options for HCV; and Monitoring, adherence and post-treatment follow-up. These modules are designed for medical practitioners, nurses and other health care professionals working in primary care settings. Part 2 of the eLearning is a case-based Refresher Module that aims to reinforce the assessment, management, treatment selection and monitoring for people with chronic hepatitis C.	online 4 modules (1.5hrs) 4 modules (2 hours) Online 4 modules and refresher (3 hours)	https://ashm.org.au/HCV/training/ For NSP frontline workers For primary care and alcohol and other drug settings Curing Hepatitis C in Primary Care