

# THE ELIMINATE HEPATITIS C PARTNERSHIP



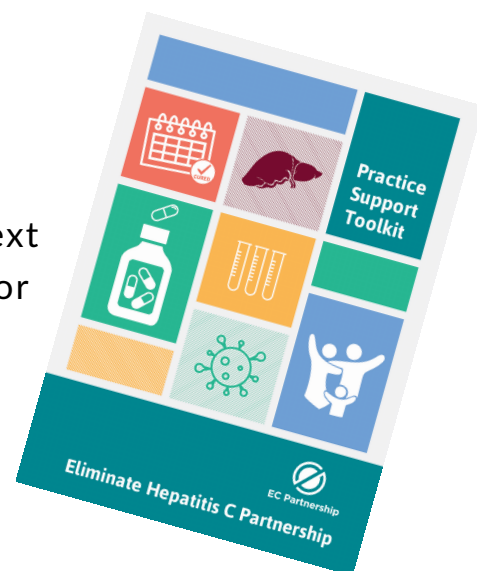
EC Partnership

## EC UPDATE - JULY 2018

### WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

#### ➤ Eliminate Hepatitis C Practice Support Toolkit

The EC Practice Support Toolkit will be released in the next few weeks – it will be available online and in hardcopy. For more information - see *Clinical Pathways update on Pg3*. We will have online copies available on our website and contact: [ecpartnership@burnet.edu.au](mailto:ecpartnership@burnet.edu.au) - for hardcopies.



#### ➤ EC is recruiting new sites - including:

- *Access Health Service, St Kilda* – commenced EC support 25th of June!
- *Mediclinic Clayton* - plan to commence end of July
- *cohealth Innerspace* - plan to commence August
- *Barwon Health Drug and Alcohol Services* - plan to commence September
- *Monash Drug and Alcohol Service, Dandenong* - plan to commence September
- *Ballarat and Geelong Aboriginal Health Services* - in discussions

See Clinical Pathways update on Pg3 for updates from our 3 EC pilot sites.

#### ➤ EC Working Groups - shifting into implementation

Currently EC has five working groups (WGs), most with a large number of member organisations. We are proposing to evolve the current groups into discrete implementation working groups focused around key activities to make better use of partner organisation and EC staff time.

The next round of EC WG meetings will be held during August, 2018 to discuss this new structure and prioritise key activities for their 2018-2019 work plans.

**Look out for meeting invitations coming soon!**

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## UPDATES FROM WORKING GROUPS HEALTH PROMOTION

### Hepatitis Victoria

- HepVic has developed a new resource 'Be Free from C' which discusses hepatitis C treatment options for people who are transitioning out of prison or have recently been released.

It includes a health passport that facilitates access to previous health tests that will inform treatment on release.

Now [online](#) or contact [neylan@hepvic.org.au](mailto:neylan@hepvic.org.au)



### Harm Reduction Victoria (HRVic)

- HRVic have been working with Graham Brown from ARCSHS W3 Project to create new evaluation tools for our peer and workforce BBV education.

- A new site has been added to the Peer Network Program, and they are recruiting new volunteers for the site in Geelong. There are now 11 new volunteers licensed to give out injecting equipment and model safer injecting practices.

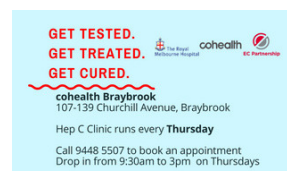
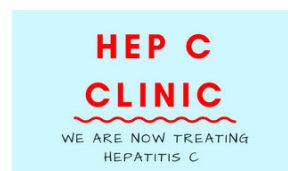
- HRVic are also working on hepatitis C resources in languages other than English and hepatitis C testing and treatment projects involving peers. This is with the support of the EC project.

Check out the HRVic Health promotion catalogue now online

[www.hrvic.org.au/resources](http://www.hrvic.org.au/resources)

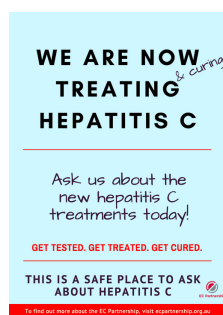
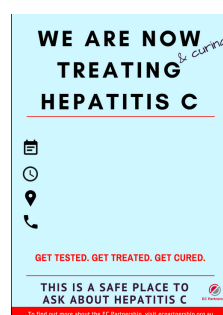
### New Resources for Clinics!

- EC has developed new resources to promote availability of treatment at EC supported sites – including EC clinic posters, business cards and fitpack stickers which can be tailored to include site details.



- These can all be ordered through the EC online Health Promotion Catalogue - check it out:

[www.ecpartnership.org.au/resources](http://www.ecpartnership.org.au/resources)



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## UPDATES FROM WORKING GROUPS CLINICAL PATHWAYS

### EC Practice Support Toolkit

- The **EC Toolkit** is almost ready for release and will be available on our website and limited hardcopies. The Toolkit aims to support primary care practices to achieve the elimination of hepatitis C.

[www.ecpartnership.org.au/resources](http://www.ecpartnership.org.au/resources)

- The Toolkit includes sections on

- o Hepatitis C – the basics
- o Hepatitis C – task list
- o Patient Support Resources
- o Provider Support Resources
- o Practice Support Resources
- o Supplementary Material Pack with patient management

software specific instruction sheets

- Thanks to everyone who provided input into the Toolkit!

### South Wangaratta Medical Centre

– 47 Joyce Way, Wangaratta VIC

- Chris Biesiekierski (Integrated Hepatitis C nurse) has been supporting a Hep C Clinic, offering a Fibroscan clinic every 3 months. Chris has also been conducting a database search to find patients requiring further follow up. **South Wangaratta Hep C clinic:** 9:00- 5:00pm, everyday.

Ph: 5713 9299 or online: [dsgmc.com.au/](http://dsgmc.com.au/)

### Accessing treatment at EC Sites!

#### cohealth Braybrook

- 107-139 Churchill Ave, Braybrook VIC

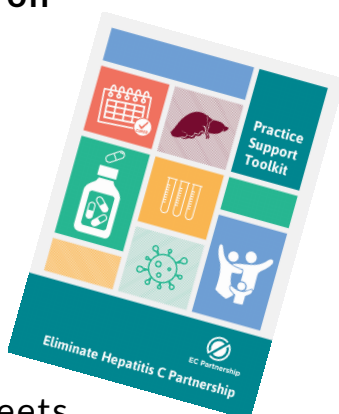
- Sally Watkinson (Integrated Hepatitis C nurse) & Kico Chan (EC nurse), with two GPs, are running a hepatitis C clinic every Tuesday at coHealth Braybrook.

#### Braybrook Hep C Clinic:

9:30am – 3pm, every Tues & Wed

Ph: 9448 5507

- Offering onsite pathology
- Recalling all patients at risk of hepatitis C, inviting them for a liver health check!
- Actively engaging NSP clients to get tested and get onto treatment



#### Ballarat Community Health Centre

- 12 Lilburne Street, Lucas VIC

- Kirsty Simpson (Integrated Hepatitis C Nurse) is currently running hepatitis C nurse led clinics at Daylesford, Maryborough, Stawell, Ararat, Horsham and Nhill - offering Fibroscan Clinic every 3 months.

- BCHC now has new Nurse Practitioner developing a Hep C clinic linking with AOD and NSP services.

Call Kirsty on 0459 819 601.

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## UPDATES FROM WORKING GROUPS

### TRAINING & EDUCATION

#### Fibroscan Training & Loaning

- Fibroscan technician training - delivered in partnership with Dept. Gastroenterology, St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne have provided training to 8 registered nurses specialising in Hep C.

- **Loaning an EC Fibroscans:** EC partnership are providing a short-term Fibroscan loaning services to regions that have difficulty accessing machines. Services can request use of the Fibroscan by emailing Mellissa Bryant [mellissa.bryant@burnet.edu.au](mailto:mellissa.bryant@burnet.edu.au)

- o **Two portable Fibroscans are available for short-term loaning** - areas that have limited access will be prioritised

- o **Rotations so far include:** Goulburn Valley Health, Ballarat Community Health, Bendigo Community Health, Barwon Health, Tasmania Health Service

- o At the Tasmania Health Service, trained staff utilised the machine to perform over 100 scans in a 12-week period!

### DATA SYSTEMS & SURVEILLANCE



- The ACCESS team have developed an **updated HCV Site Reports** which will be used to provide feedback to participating EC and ACCESS sites on hepatitis C testing and treatment uptake at their clinic.

- GRHANITE data extraction software has been installed at cohealth Braybrook, meaning all three EC pilot sites are now contributing data to the ACCESS surveillance system.

- The EC team led a validation process using clinical data provided by a participating EC sites and we found:
  - Previous antibody tests not recorded in patient management software as they were performed elsewhere or before the software was available
  - Scripts not generated within the medical practice software cannot be picked up via GRHANITE, this includes any paper or hand written scripts
  - A large number of patients with hepatitis C listed as a condition - do not have a "current" or "active" diagnosis

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## WORKING GROUPS RESEARCH & EVALUATION



Rapid-EC

- **Rapid EC Study** was conducted at 3 community clinics with NSPs – **Healthworks, Innerspace, North Richmond Community Health**, to assess the feasibility and acceptability of point of care (POC) testing for HCV.

- NSP workers, community health workers (CHWs), and nurses offered POC tests to clients accessing the NSP.

- Clients were offered **OraQuick HCV antibody test using saliva** (20 mins) and **Cepheid's Xpert HCV viral load using serum** (105 mins).



### Key Results:

- 174 participants completed POC testing for HCV antibodies - 150 (86%) had a reactive result
- 140 (93%) underwent a POC HCV RNA test, of who 76 (54%) had detectable RNA
- 104 of the 140 (74%) attended the follow-up visit within a median of 11 days (IQR 7-20 days).
- Clients reported strong preferences for POC tests (97/116, 85%)

## UPDATES FROM PARTNERS HEPATITIS VICTORIA

### New Health Promotion team members!

- **Neylan Aykut** has joined the team, moving to Victoria from tasCAHRD. We are also pleased to have **Isabelle Purcell** join the team. Isabelle is a community nurse also working two days a week with InnerSpace.

- Also for prisoners is the “**Art Inside – Liver Health Notebook**”, the recently completed round of combined education and art sessions resulted in the art work created by the prisoners used as a way of reinforcing the main themes of testing, treatment and cure.



### Community Awareness and Education Workshop.

July 28 - Kathleen Syme Library and Community Centre (Activity Room), Carlton.

## HARM REDUCTION VICTORIA

- To mark **World Hepatitis Day** HRVic will be attending events at **Sacred Heart Mission, LAUNCH Housing, and Hepatitis Victoria**. We will also be distributing lollipops, pill boxes and lip balm branded with nationally coordinated hep C messages.



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## UPDATES FROM PARTNERS

### NATIONAL HEP C ELIMINATION WORKSHOP

- Burnet and St Vincents Hospital Melbourne coordinated the 'Sustaining Elimination' National Hepatitis C Workshop, 28th March, Melbourne Airport
- **Aims:** Ensuring Australia has a sustained response to Hepatitis C prevention, testing and treatment to achieve hepatitis C Elimination by 2026.
- **Objectives:** Identify pathways to scale up awareness of treatment in affected communities, identify activities to sustain high levels of harm reduction/prevention and identify key activities coming out of workshop.
- **Over 65 delegates from all states and jurisdictions attended this workshop.** The feedback was very positive, such that it is envisaged this will become an annual workshop moving forward.
- Workshop notes will be circulated shortly - contact Alisa Pedrana ([alisa.pedrana@burnet.edu.au](mailto:alisa.pedrana@burnet.edu.au)) for more information.

### MELBOURNE'S MEDICALLY SUPERVISED INJECTING ROOM

**The medically supervised injecting room (MSIR) is now open!**

The MSIR is a safe and hygienic place where people can inject drugs in a supervised health setting. This means that if someone overdoses in the room, a staff member can respond immediately. It's also a place to access other health services like mental health support, drug treatment, wound care and blood testing.

#### How does it work?

**Step 1:** registration and a brief assessment

**Step 2:** medically supervised injecting and overdose response

**Stage 3:** aftercare and referral

**MSIR has opened as a two-year trial.**

#### North Richmond Community Health

23 Lennox St

Richmond, VIC 3121

- 8am to 5pm, Monday to Friday

- 9am to 5pm, Saturday and Sunday

Find out more: <http://nrch.com.au/>

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## UPDATES FROM PARTNERS

### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

#### Reorientation of the Integrated Hepatitis C Service (IHCS)

The Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society in partnership with the Department of Health and Human Services, is **leading the reorientation of the IHCS to develop a contemporary nurse-led model of care** to increase community-based testing and treatment.

#### Viral hepatitis implementation working group

DHHS has established implementation working groups for HIV, sexually transmissible infections and viral hepatitis. The Victorian viral hepatitis implementation working group was convened in June 2018.

**The purpose of the implementation group is to:** provide expert advice on implementation of key actions identified in the strategies; identify gaps in implementation of key actions; and provide advice on monitoring and reporting of the strategies against the relevant indicator framework.

The implementation group is **developing an implementation tracker** and will produce an annual report summarising progress against priorities identified in the hepatitis B and C strategies.

### VHHITAL

The Victorian Department of Health & Human Services have provided funding for a state wide **BBV/STI Education & Events Calendar**. This calendar relies on individuals entering their own events so that all sector stakeholders can see what is happening around Victoria. Anyone can submit an event.

<http://bbvsti.vphna.org.au/>

Following a successful Blood Borne Virus Regional Forum held in Shepparton in December 2017, VHHITAL is planning another in a regional location later in 2018.

In May VHHITAL and The Austin Hospital partnered to deliver training in hepatitis C and hepatitis B and were pleased to see more than 50 attendees. They are planning to deliver more hepatitis C education for practitioners working in the catchment area.

VHHITAL Program's comprehensive Blood Borne Virus and Sexual Health training program upcoming events can be found listed

<https://nwmpnhn.org.au/news-events/events/>

NWMPHN have an **Information Sheet on MBS Items for hepatitis B and hepatitis C care** here:

<https://nwmpnhn.org.au/>

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### WORLD HEPATITIS DAY

For all upcoming World Hepatitis Day Events - check out

[www.worldhepatitisday.org.au/](http://www.worldhepatitisday.org.au/)

**Street Shot Exhibition:** Engaging with young people on risk of viral hepatitis through a creative photography and video exhibition. July 27 – August 10. The Centre Space, MetroWest Victoria University Footscray

### LIVERability Festival Calendar

<https://www.hepvic.org.au/page/1179/liverability-festival-2018>

**Burnet Institute: World Hepatitis Day Symposium – Preventing disease, Preventing deaths.**

July 30. Burnet Institute, Melbourne.

Register: [burnet.edu.au/events](http://burnet.edu.au/events)



## OTHER EVENTS

### Australian Viral Hepatitis Conference

o Date: August 13-15

o Location: Adelaide. South Australia

o Final registrations close July 29!

<http://www.hepatitis.org.au/>

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Hainsworth et al. *Hepatitis C virus notification rates in Australia are highest in socioeconomically disadvantaged areas.* PLOSOne, 2018.

Scott et al. *Heterogeneity in hepatitis C treatment prescribing and uptake in Australia: a geospatial analysis of a year of unrestricted treatment access.* J Virus Erad, 2018.

Wade et al. *Aiming for elimination: Outcomes of a consultation pathway supporting regional general practitioners to prescribe DAAs for hepatitis C.* J Viral Hepatitis, 2018

Sacks-Davis et al. *Linkage and retention in HCV care for HIV-infected populations: early data from the DAA era.* JIAS, 2018

Dore GJ et al. *Elimination of Hepatitis C Virus in Australia: Laying the Foundation: Infectious Disease Clinics of North America,* 2018.

## EC PARTNERSHIP CONTACT

WEBSITE: [ECPARTNERSHIP.ORG.AU](http://ECPARTNERSHIP.ORG.AU)

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