

## HOW TO CURE HEPATITIS C IN YOUR CLINIC: A WORKSHOP

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**Introduction and Aims:** Hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection is the commonest chronic viral infection in Australia with 233,000 living with HCV in 2013, including 80,000 with moderate to severe liver disease.<sup>1</sup> If treatment uptake continues at the low rate of around 1%-2%, the number of people with cirrhosis, hepatocellular carcinoma and liver disease mortality will triple by 2030.<sup>2</sup> In Australia, the majority of people living with hepatitis C have a history of injecting drug use (IDU). Many of these attend primary care practices including clinics providing opiate substitution therapy (OST). A number of new directly acting antiviral drugs (DAAs) have recently been recommended for listing in Australia. These combination treatment regimens offer cure rates of 90 - 95%, have fewer toxicities and require shorter duration of treatment. The challenge now will be delivering this revolutionary treatment in varied settings, including primary care and Drug and Alcohol Services to scale up treatment and reduce the rising burden of liver disease in Australia.

**Design and Methods:** This workshop will review patient treatment pathways for the major HCV genotypes 1-4. Primary care assessment will be discussed, including the use of non-invasive assessment of liver disease severity utilising transient elastography (FibroScan).

**Results:** Detailed outcomes for new DAAs will be examined.

**Discussion and Conclusions:** Hepatitis C can be cured in most people living with the virus. This workshop will equip attendees with the knowledge to appropriately assess patients and to begin the treatment process.

**References** <sup>1</sup>HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections in Australia Annual Surveillance Report 2014, The Kirby Institute

<sup>2</sup>Sievert W. Enhanced antiviral treatment efficacy and uptake in preventing the rising burden of hepatitis C-related liver disease and costs in Australia. *J Gastroenterol Hepatol.* 2014;29:1-9

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