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Exposure to opioid substitution therapy following hepatitis C notification

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HCV may be treated in opioid substitution therapy (OST) settings

- Not all people who inject drugs use opioids, or want OST
- Many people with HCV are no longer injecting or engaged in treatment for substance use
- What % of people with HCV have an episode of OST long enough to complete HCV treatment?

Method

- Data linkage, New South Wales, Australia
- HCV notifications (1993-2012) linked to OST and mortality data
- 16 continuous weeks of OST minimum suitable to complete a 12 week course of HCV therapy

Among 96,888 people with an anti-HCV+ notification:

- 26% sought OST following notification
- People with OST after HCV notification were younger at notification (30 years vs 38 years)
- Median duration of OST: 24 weeks

Among those who sought OST, most had more than 16 consecutive weeks:

	% of those with OST after notification	% of total HCV cohort
≥16 weeks OST	90%	24%
≥16 weeks OST in 2013	45%	12%

Targeting HCV therapy to OST settings will contribute to reducing disease burden

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