

BEYOND THE 'EMPTY WAREHOUSE': EXPLORING BARRIERS AND FACILITATORS FOR REACHING THOSE 'NEXT IN LINE' FOR THE NEW HCV TREATMENTS

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This paper draws upon the findings of three separate data sources collected by the Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug users league (AIVL) using the findings to frame a discussion of the barriers and facilitators for HCV treatment for people who inject drugs (PWID) in Australia.

The three sources, one a survey of stigma and discrimination experiences of PWID, the other a research report into the re-use of injecting equipment and the last a series of consultations with PWID on the topic of HCV testing, treatment and monitoring, highlight key themes impacting upon the everyday experiences of PWID especially as they relate to interaction within health settings. These themes include the impact of stigma and discrimination, prior experiences with health professionals and relationships between drug using peers. It is argued that all three strongly inform attitudes toward seeking treatment advice or information and the likelihood of success of particular sites for the dissemination of HCV information, support and referral for treatment.

The paper concludes with a consideration of the above themes and the possible avenues for addressing barriers and enhancing facilitators on the HCV treatment journey.