

A regional centres approach to eradicating Hepatitis C by 2025

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ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

The World Health Organisation is working towards eliminating viral hepatitis by 2030. This involves reducing new infections, diagnosing people, reducing mortality and treating people. New Zealand is one of the 196 countries participating in this initiative.

The Taranaki region has a predominantly rural population of 119,000 (15% who identify as Maori). The total number of people living in the region with active Hepatitis C (HCV) was unclear. With the funded release of a new antiviral medication, a project team was established (in July 2018) with a clear goal to eradicate HCV from the region by 2025.

Aim/Purpose

- Work towards eradication of HCV in Taranaki by 2025
- Explore the current screening, diagnosis and treatment pathway/s for patients with HCV
- Confirm a clinical care pathway for HCV patients
- Ensure that HCV diagnosis, treatment, monitoring and follow up are sustainable, integrated and equitable.
- Increase public awareness of HCV testing and treatment options

Methods/Process/Who

The project team identified those who needed to be included and /or treated:

- Confirmed HCV (stage 1)
- Unclear HCV (stage 2)
- Unknown status (stage 3)

Once the above was established we wanted to focus on ensuring these people were being treated in the right place, by the right person in a consistent manner. Representation from Community, Primary and the Secondary sector worked together with agreed treatment pathways and data collection to ensure positive patient outcomes.

Results/Outcome

Currently a work in progress as we are only 10 months into the project. The statistical data that will be discussed will include: Genotype breakdown, geographical spread, numbers treated (including number of prescriptions), numbers not treated and numbers unknown. Our challenges to date will also be examined.

Recommendations/Conclusion

Get tested, Get treated, Get cured! This session will empower and provide innovative ideas to others who want to set out to eradicate HCV.