Hep C Treatment Uptake in WA Prisons

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Hepatitis C screening is offered as part of the admission process to prisoners when risk is identified and also if requested by the prisoner.

Education about risk behaviours and harm minimisation is provided to prisoners through the Hip Hop (Health in Prison Health Outta Prison) program.

The current muster with WA custodial settings is 6722 prisoners.

Currently there are 1047 prisoners who have tested positive for HCV. Acknowledging that screening is voluntary, there may be more prisoners who have HCV that DoJ are unaware of.
Background

- The new Direct Acting Antivirals (DAAs) – became available March 2016, with prisoners being offered this treatment from April 2016. This cost is borne by the Commonwealth as the medications are listed on the PBS. There is no cost to prisoners or DoJ.

- Prisoners must be prescribed these medications via the Highly Specialised Drugs (HSD) Program under section 100 (S100) and thereby treated under the supervision of a specialist attached to a tertiary hospital. Medications must be dispensed from a tertiary hospital pharmacy.

- Prior to the introductions of DAAs in 2016, DoJ treated on average 50 prisoners for HCV per annum.

- Since the introduction of the new DAAs approximately 34 prisoners in metropolitan prisons and 176 in regional prisons have commenced Rx
Treatment per site – Regional WA

- Prisoners at Albany, Bunbury, Greenough, EGRP and Roebourne continue to access DAAs through local specialists with little difficulty and reasonably short wait times.

  - Albany: 98 patients commenced on DAA treatment
  - Bunbury: 21 patients commenced on DAA treatment
  - Greenough: 47 patients commenced on DAA treatment
  - EGRP: 5 patients commenced on DAA treatment
  - Roebourne: 5 patients commenced on DAA treatment
Albany Regional Prison

- Albany: 98 patients commenced on DAA treatment
  - 28 x SVRs 3/12 post treatment
  - 3 x RNA detected
  - 1 x did not complete treatment
  - 66 x results not available or not yet due

- Dr Helen Van Gessel, Infectious Disease Physician, through Albany Regional Hospital is scripting and supplying Rx to Albany Regional Prison patients.
Bunbury Regional Prison

- Bunbury: 21 patients commenced on DAA treatment
  - 10 x 3/12 SVRs
  - 11 results not yet available
- Dr Steve Hinton through Southwest Hospital Pharmacy is scripting and supplying DAAs to prisoners in Bunbury Regional Prison.
Greenough Regional Prison

- Greenough: 47 patients commenced on DAA treatment
  - 7 currently on treatment
  - 40 completed - nil post treatment results available at this time

- Dr Marisa Gilles and Dr Caroline Crossley from Geraldton MidWest Population Health are scripting and supplying DAAs to patients at Greenough Regional Prison
Eastern Goldfields Regional Prison

- EGRP: 5 patients commenced on DAA treatment

- DoJ doctors work with Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital (KRH) to workup and script EGRP patients for DAA treatment
Roebourne Regional Prison

- Roebourne: 5 patients commenced on DAA treatment
  - One patient discontinued due to medication allergy
  - Two patients did not achieve SVR 3 months post Rx (potential re-infection?)

- Sir Charles Gardiner Hospital (SCGH) liver clinic script and supply Roebourne Regional Prison (RRP) via an outreach service at Roebourne AMS.
Treatment per site – Metro WA

- Since the introduction of the new DAA treatment, approximately 34 prisoners in metropolitan prisons have commenced treatment for HCV.

- With the MOU taking effect the majority of Rx is at Casuarina

- 193 patients at Casuarina who are HCV RNA+ - however not all are sentenced and those with high hepascores still require referral

- Large number of patients at Acacia waiting for Rx – no current option but to refer and wait
Partnerships

• The Department of Justice (DoJ) and the South Metropolitan Health Service (SMHS) have forwarded an MOU for endorsement.

• The MOU proposes a pilot model of care whereby DoJ doctors who are credentialed at Fiona Stanley Hospital (FSH) are able to prescribe the new HCV treatments to prisoners.

• The number of prescriptions has been capped at 10 per week and is restricted to sentenced prisoners within the postcode area of SMHS.

• The current focus is on providing sentenced prisoners access to treatment. Due to the time required for assessment and completion of the DAA course of treatment and the uncertainty around release dates, remand prisoners are unable to be included at this stage.
Partnerships

• Corrective Services have approached the East Metropolitan Health Service to develop a model of care that would enable metropolitan prisons in their catchment area to have access to treatment.
• This includes Acacia, Bandyup, Boronia, Karnet, Wandoo and Wooroloo Prisons.
• Their only access currently is through referral to the FSH Hepatology clinic that has a lengthy wait list for appointments.
Barriers to Rx in Corrections

- Access in the metro area - the majority of prisoners in the metro area are facing long wait times to access treatment through tertiary clinics. The issue of access to HCV treatment in the metro area has been raised by DoJ with the Department of Health Communicable Disease Branch.
- S100 prescribing – Prison GPs not able to prescribe meds and only tertiary hospital pharmacies can dispense
- Re-infection rates – no clean injecting equipment available to prevent re-infection during and after treatment
Questions/comments?