

Hepatitis C Testing and Care in Alcohol and Other Drug Services

Summary The guidance document provides a standardised approach for routine delivery of hepatitis C care in the Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) settings. It identifies opportunities for AOD services to enhance hepatitis C care, boost workforce capabilities and leverage new and existing partnerships.

- Document type** Information Bulletin
- Document number** IB2024_015
- Publication date** 19 March 2024
- Author branch** Centre for Alcohol and Other Drugs
- Branch contact** (02) 9424 5938
- Review date** 19 March 2029
- Policy manual** Not applicable
- File number** HA-2024-0000386
- Status** Active
- Functional group** Clinical/Patient Services - Drug and Alcohol, Medical Treatment
Population Health - Health Promotion
- Applies to** Public Health Units, Chief Executive Governed Statutory Health Corporations, Specialty Network Governed Statutory Health Corporations, Affiliated Health Organisations, NSW Health Pathology, Public Health System Support Division, Public Hospitals
- Distributed to** Public Health System, Government Medical Officers
- Audience** Medical Services;Drug and Alcohol Staff;Clinical Staff in Drug and Alcohol;Drug and Alcohol Treatment Services;Clinical and Nursing;Clinical;HIV and Related Programs, Public Hospitals, Community Health Centres;Community Health staff

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PURPOSE

This Information Bulletin advises all people who work in alcohol and other drug (AOD) settings about the release of a new guidance document [Hepatitis C Testing and Care in Alcohol and Other Drug Services](#)

KEY INFORMATION

This document provides a standardised approach for routine delivery of hepatitis C care in AOD settings. It identifies opportunities for AOD services to enhance hepatitis C care, boost workforce capabilities and leverage new and existing partnerships. The guidance document will assist AOD services in:

- identifying and implementing the minimum level of hepatitis C care appropriate for each service's local context, considering workforce capabilities, amenities and other factors
- ensuring Dried Blood Spot (DBS) testing is made available as a minimum in all services
- establishing local referral pathways for further hepatitis C testing and treatment
- utilising remote pathways to care, such as arrangements with remote prescribers and virtual care platforms
- enhancing peer support networks
- fostering partnerships, including with HIV and Related Programs Units and Non-Government Organisations
- delivering targeted workforce education and training

It was developed in consultation with key stakeholders from local health districts, specialty health networks and non-government organisations.

Local Implementation

Local implementation of the guidance document is the responsibility of Service Executives and Senior Clinicians and will be supported by the Centre for Alcohol and Other Drugs (CAOD) and Centre for Population Health (CPH).

Key to implementation is a local approach that accounts for how local protocols, models of care or operating procedures are aligned and consistent with the guidance.

All clinicians working in NSW Health AOD settings are to be aware of this document and actively participate in its implementation.

Further Information

For further information please contact the Centre for Alcohol and Other Drugs Branch via email MOH-AOD@health.nsw.gov.au