

## THE 'B IN IT' PROGRAMME - COMMUNITY BASED CARE OF CHRONIC HEPATITIS B PATIENTS USING A NOVEL ONLINE CLINICAL GUIDE

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**Background:** Approximately 218,000 Australians are living with chronic hepatitis B (CHB). Of these, less than 5% currently access treatment and specialist clinics have limited capacity to increase their case loads. We have developed a collaborative protocol for the monitoring and treatment of CHB, co-ordinated by a novel online interactive clinical guide (the 'B in IT' programme). Using this platform, participants have successfully been enrolled in community-based care for over two years.

**Methods:** The objective of the 'B in IT' programme is to establish the feasibility and acceptability of community-based care of people with CHB, using a shared care model between specialist hepatitis clinics and high case load GPs. Facilitated by a novel online clinical guide and database, and supervised by a project officer and hepatologist at each hospital, key features of 'B in IT' are: secure messaging of treatment protocols; generation of chronic disease management plans; an interactive discussion tool; SMS patient appointment reminders; an auditing tool for tracking overdue appointments and tests.

**Results:** Nine high case load GP clinics are involved in the 'B in IT' programme. 34 people living with CHB are enrolled in shared care as of end March 2016. Willingness of people living with CHB to participate in shared care varied from 39 - 79% between GP clinics, and related to estimated wait times at the GP clinics. Timely adherence of patients to scheduled appointments and tests was equivalent to those at tertiary hepatitis clinics. Enrolment is ongoing.

**Conclusion:** The 'B in IT' programme is effective, efficient and well received by all participants to-date. Since people living with stable CHB are reviewed 6 monthly, enrolment of a larger number of patients for a longer duration will be necessary to determine the feasibility, acceptability and scalability of the 'B in IT' programme in different primary care settings.

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