



Kirby Institute Seminar Series

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The Observe study

Understanding barriers and facilitators to the take up of new DAA hepatitis C treatments

Joanne Bryant, Peter Hull, Lise Lafferty, Limin Mao, Carla Treloar

Never Stand Still

Arts & Social Sciences

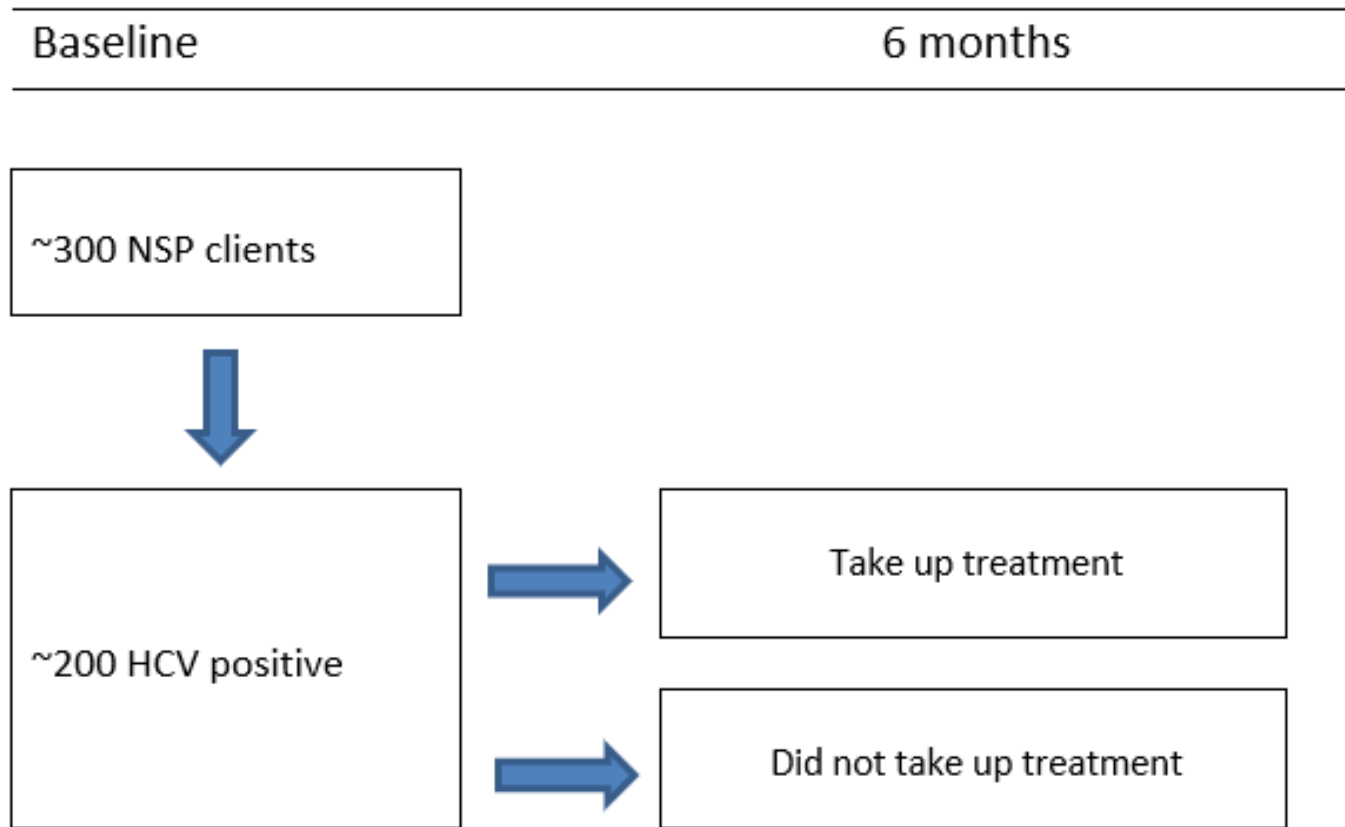
Centre for Social Research in Health

- *Focus on perspectives and experiences of people who inject drugs*

Aims

- Factors that support or prevent uptake of treatment: individual, social, systemic
- Pathways through and experiences with the care system

Design – observational cohort and key stakeholder interviews



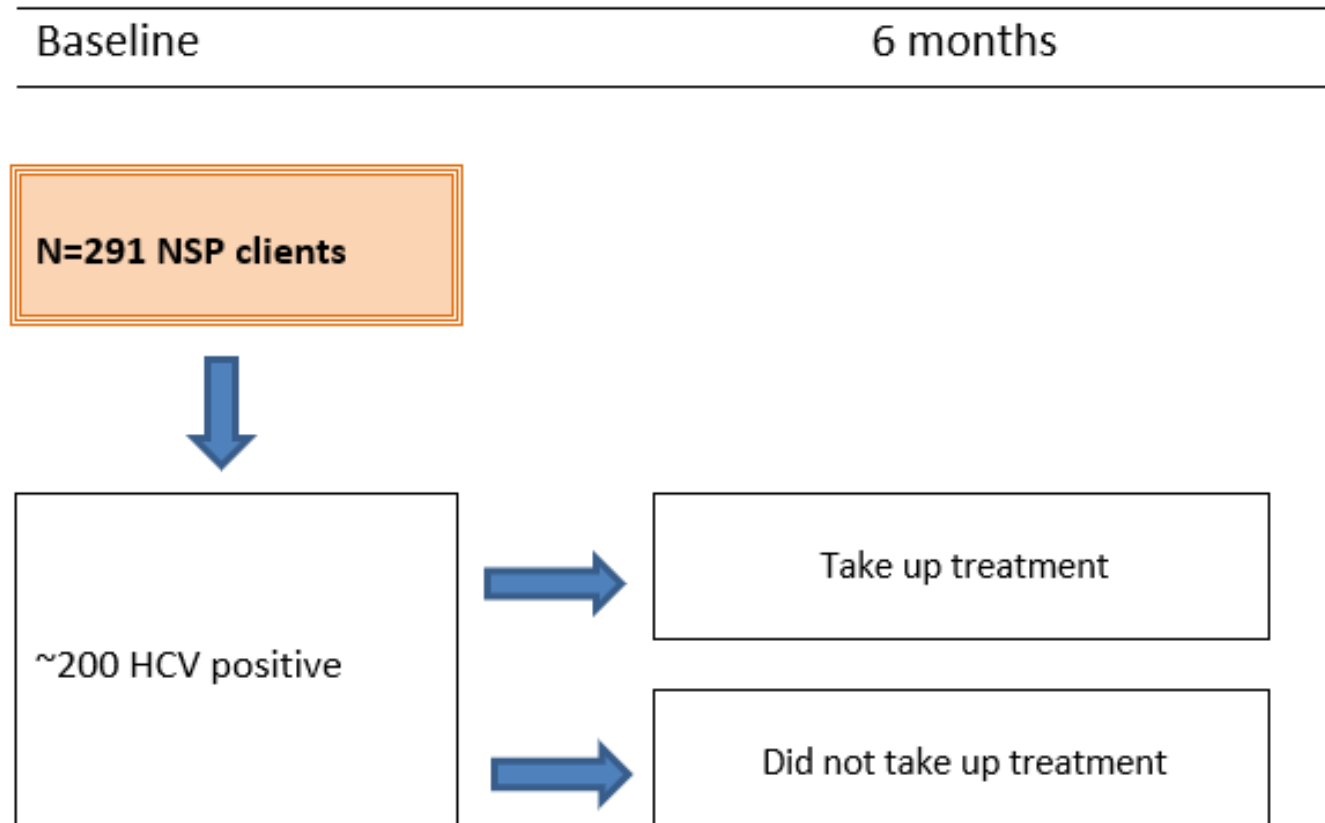
Key stakeholder interviews – Regional NSW

Dubbo, Wagga, Orange

N=15 people with HCV, treated and not treated

N= 10 staff

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Baseline overview

	n	%
Total	291	
Not tested	11	3.8
Hep C negative	140	48.1
Hep C positive: currently on or have received DAA	82	28.2
Hep C positive: no DAA	58	19.9

Baseline overview

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Hep C positive: no DAA	58	19.9

Key themes

- Most people who are eligible have either taken up treatment already, or have gone some way down path to treatment
- Misunderstandings about exclusions to treatment: current injecting, costs
- Side effects are a common concern: those who have done treatment reported that they experienced them, and those who haven't done treatment reported them as a concern

Treatment uptake

Hep C positive (n=140)		
59% Taken up DAA (n=82)		
	Currently on treatment	35%
	Completed treatment	65%
41% Not taken up DAA (n=58)		
	No assessment	71%
	Assessment appointment	29%
	Had a blood test as part of assessment	27%
	Had a fibroscan as part of assessment	21%
	Had a prescription for tablets	2%

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Reasons reported for not getting assessed

Participants who has not had any assessment, top 3 reasons for this:

- felt they didn't really need treatment at the moment.
- worried about the side effects.
- (equal third) can't afford the cost and finding it difficult to get transport to appointments.

For those who had been treated, experiences with treatment

How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements about your experience taking DAA treatment	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree
Taking DAA treatment has been easy and straightforward	63.0	7.4	29.6
I have experienced very few side effects during my treatment.	57.1	3.6	39.3
The medical and health care workers are/were very good support during my treatment	57.1	10.7	32.1
Taking DAA treatment has been difficult to incorporate with other treatment I am taking (ie methadone, bupe, or other treatment	25.9	7.4	66.7
My peers (other people with Hep C) provided/are providing very good support during my treatment.	57.1	14.3	28.6

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Beliefs about exclusions for treatment

	total	DAA	No DAA	p-value
Believed that the following makes a person ineligible for treatment...				
Current injecting	27.5	28.0	24.1	0.61
Currently on OST	8.2	7.3	6.9	0.92
Liver cirrhosis	8.6	8.5	3.4	0.28
Liver failure	12.7	12.2	5.2	0.16
Heavy alcohol intake	17.2	15.9	15.5	0.96
Absence of symptoms for hep C	13.7	18.3	8.6	0.11
Normal liver function test results	8.2	9.8	6.9	0.55
History of depression	5.2	6.1	3.4	0.48
Pregnancy	18.2	17.1	15.5	0.81
Having been on treatment in the past and been cured	17.2	22.0	10.3	0.07

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Knowledge about access to treatment

Correctly identified that...				p-value
	total	DAA	No DAA	
A person does not need to see a liver specialist first	22.7	35.0	19.0	0.04*
A specialist nurse can prescribe medication	26.8	47.5	25.9	0.01*
A doctor/GP can determine if someone can go on treatment	54.0	71.3	56.9	0.08
Medication can be obtained from pharmacies other than hospital pharmacies	34.4	51.2	29.3	0.01*
Medication can be obtained from pharmacies in the community	42.6	68.8	43.1	0.003*
Medication is free with a Medicare card	40.5	56.3	39.7	0.054

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Concerns about side effects

Believed the following to be a side effect of DAA treatment	total	DAA	No DAA	p-value
Depression or mood swings		60.5	65.5	.55
Irritability		60.5	62.1	.85
Cognitive impairments		63.0	79.3	.04*
Tiredness or fatigue		50.6	56.9	.46
Flu-like symptoms		63.0	72.4	.24
Insomnia		59.3	75.9	.04*
Lack of energy		53.1	63.8	.21
Headaches		59.3	65.5	.45
Loss of appetite		66.7	65.5	.89
Weight gain		61.7	79.3	.03*

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Concerns about side effects

'Imagine that you are considering DAA treatment. To what extent would you worry about the following.'	total	DAA	No DAA	p-value
Talking with a doctor about my injecting drug use	1.86	1.96	1.81	.64
The medications involved in treatment	2.10	2.07	2.12	.90
The potential side effect of the medications	2.44	1.96	2.69	.04*
The reaction of people close to me	1.85	2.04	1.75	.35
The reaction of others	1.83	1.93	1.77	.59
Negative attitudes of staff in treatment services	1.95	2.00	1.92	.82
Treatment staff talking about or giving out information about me	2.15	1.93	2.27	.35

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The reaction of people close to me	1.85	2.04	1.75	.35
The reaction of others	1.83	1.93	1.77	.59
Negative attitudes of staff in treatment services	1.95	2.00	1.92	.82
Treatment staff talking about or giving out information about me	2.15	1.93	2.27	.35

Key themes

- Raise awareness about *exclusions and access*:
 - current injecting or previous treatment are not exclusions
 - costs
- *Side effects* are a common concern: those who have done treatment reported that they experienced them, and those who haven't done treatment reported them as a concern
- Many people have already taken up treatment, or have gone some way down path to treatment

Thank you.