

# Hepatitis Community Outreach Program (HEPREACH)

## Aim:

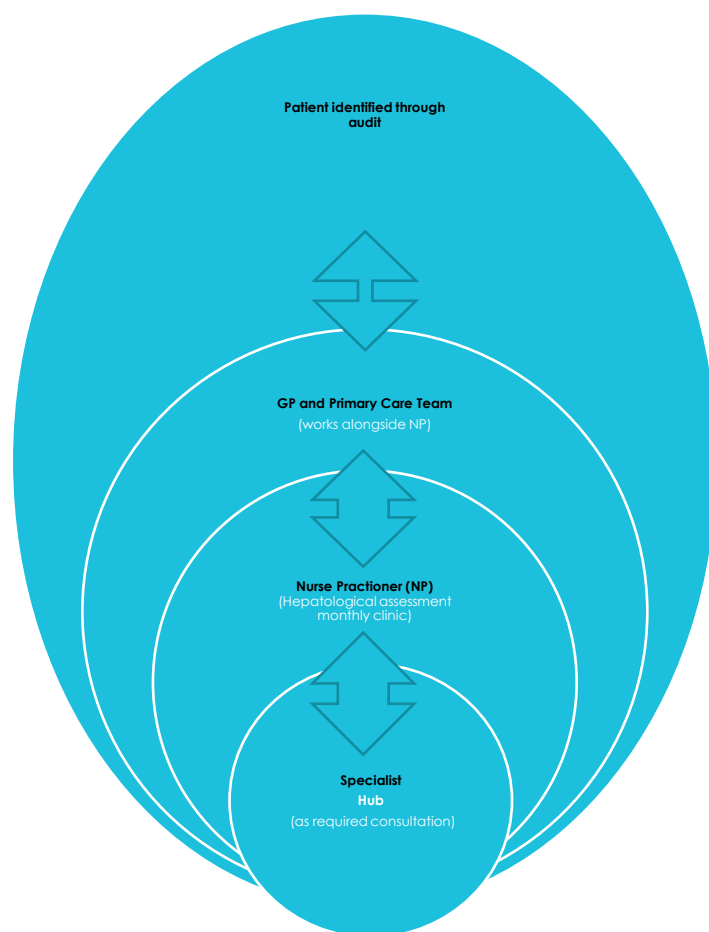
To engage with groups in the community that have disproportionately high rates of viral hepatitis infection, may be socially disadvantaged and not well integrated into traditional health services. To improve access to care as well as build health literacy and engagement with difficult to reach populations. Varied models of care are being investigated including "In-house", remote access and "Lite" practice support. Models of funding being utilised include block funding & MBS item billing.

## Video Conferencing Model-Hepreach

Effective management of chronic liver disease requires specialist consultation, however specialists are seldom present outside of metropolitan tertiary facilities, and there are also not enough specialists to treat those who need care. During 2020 the Hepreach project aims to showcase the role of the Nurse Practitioner as part of an Outreach Specialist Team set in General Practice in supporting a video conferencing model of care for hepatology.

Video Conferencing technology links specialist teams from an academic 'hub' with primary care clinicians in local communities in collaboration with the Outreach Specialist Team - the 'spokes' of the model. This is depicted pictorially. Together, they participate in regular video conferencing clinics. Specialists serve as mentors and colleagues, sharing their medical knowledge and expertise with primary care clinicians. This model of service delivery moves knowledge not patients therefore is accessible, prompt and reduces the need for patients to travel.

*"Initial nursing staff assessment establishes treatment expectations for the patient, emphasising the importance of treatment milestones and required pathology investigations. This practice algorithm provides a focused clinical picture of the patient prior to specialist consultation, minimising delay in treatment commencement. A well-structured and well communicated model of care tailored to the individual patient is a key contributor to the success of similar telehealth models". Cheng W, Nazareth S and Flexman JP. State-wide hepatitis C model of care for rural and remote regions. J Gastroenterol Hepatol 2015; 30(S2): 1–5.*



## Referral process:

Mater referral link is [materonline.org.au](https://materonline.org.au)  
Please request on referral for HEPREACH community clinic

## Contact:

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