The Catalan model of hepatitis care
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A public health approach to hepatitis C – moving from treating the individual to eliminating HCV as a public health threat

~7.5 million1 inhabitants

Why is the regional elimination plan needed?
HCV is among the top 15 causes of mortality in the Catalan population2
0.47% Prevalence of viraemic HCV in the Catalan general population aged over 19 years3
1.9% Prevalence of viraemic HCV in the Catalan prison population4 –4 times that of the general population
48.2% Prevalence of viraemic HCV in the Catalan PWID population5 –103 times that of the general population
20% of Catalan people infected with HCV do not know their status7

What are the objectives of the regional elimination plan?

1 Obtain updated epidemiological information
2 Reduce the incidence of new HCV infections
3 Increase the detection of hidden infections
4 Coordinate healthcare to improve access to treatment
5 Improve education and raise awareness among healthcare professionals and citizens
6 Monitoring and evaluation

Endorsement
Plan formally approved by the Catalan Government on July 3, 2019

HCV prevention: since 20186
1,049,225 needles distributed
8147 individuals prescribed OST

HCV detection: reflex testing established as routine in primary care and prisons

Aim: to facilitate the design and implementation of the necessary measures to reduce the incidence, morbidity and mortality associated with HCV infection, in order to eliminate the disease as a public health concern in Catalonia by 2030

Key outcomes

Treatment access
Liaison nurses in all Catalan prisons to enhance HCV screening, treatment initiation and completion among prison inmates

>28,000 people have received HCV treatment in Catalonia within the last 5 years8

96.4% SVR rate in 4396 patients (5605 patients treated in 2018)9

Key interventions used to enhance HCV testing, linkage to care (LTC) and treatment uptake in relation to objectives 3 and 4

• Reflex HCV RNA testing to simplify the care pathway for the general population and in prisons
• Integrated onsite rapid HCV antibody and DBS testing, counselling and education for PWID, MSM and migrants
• One-time screening of all prisoners on admission to prison
• Non-invasive liver disease assessment using transient elastography with facilitated referral to care for all patients
• Integrated HCV care in drug and alcohol settings and community centres, including onsite HCV assessment for PWID