



# ACIPC

Australasian College  
for Infection Prevention and Control

## Aged Care

**IPC Community of Practice:**  
Aged Care Connexion  
Resources  
Webinars



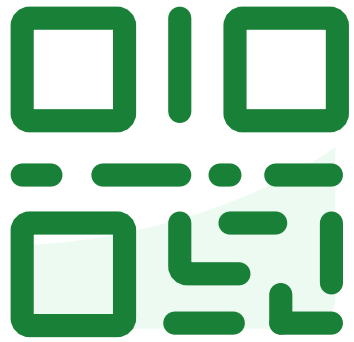
# Caring for people with Blood Borne Viruses in the aged care setting

July 2024



ACIPC acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people as the traditional custodians of country throughout Australia and respects their continuing connection to culture, land, waterways, community, and family.





**Join at [slido.com](https://slido.com)  
#2034095**



# Where are you from?



## What is your role?

① The Slido app must be installed on every computer you're presenting from

**slido**



**Roughly, how many ACIPC aged care  
IPC CoP webinars have you attended**



**What CoP topics have you found valuable and like to see more of, or new topics you would like to see in the future?**

# Q&A

- Questions and comments are encouraged
- Please place all questions/comments in the Q&A function of the webinar for presenters to respond
- Any unanswered questions from the webinar will be posted in the 'aged care connexion' forum.
- Webinar recording and PowerPoint will be uploaded onto the ACIPC Aged Care IPC Webinar Series webpage post the session





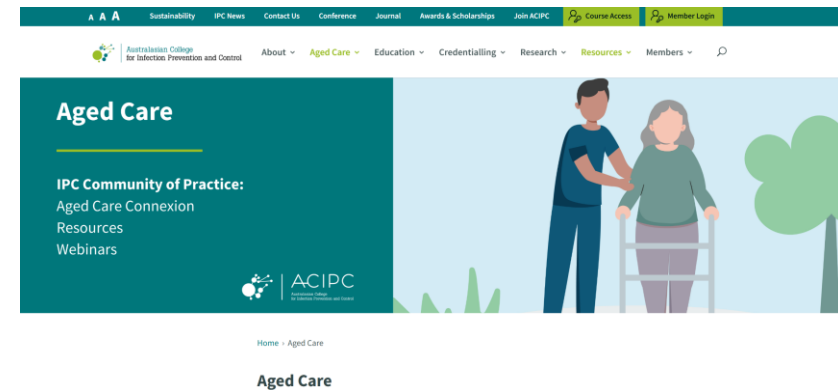
# ACIPC Aged Care Resources



ACIPC  
Australasian College  
for Infection Prevention and Control

Link: <https://www.acipc.org.au/aged-care/>

- Aged Care IPC Links
- CoP Webinars
- Aged care connexion
- Aged Care in Focus
- Tools/Templates
- Companion Animals



# ACIPC Aged Care Community of Practice -Webinar Series



ACIPC  
Australasian College  
for Infection Prevention and Control

**Wednesday 20 August 2025, 2.00PM AEST**

**Speakers:** Chloe Tilson – IPC Lead and Kelly Barton – Executive Director of Clinical Services – Alpine Health

## **In the life of an IPC lead**

As the IPC Lead role was a newly created position during a time of many unknowns it has been an exciting journey becoming an IPC Lead. Becoming an IPC Lead has led to many opportunities to extend my knowledge base in the field of Infection Prevention & Control. Having a structured Infection Prevention and Control Program is very beneficial and has allowed for the IPC Lead journey to run efficiently. It gives me the ability to educate staff. Changing staff culture and educate staff on areas from audit results where there has been an increase or decline in results. Able to attend organisational and external networking meetings.





# Jacqui Richmond

---

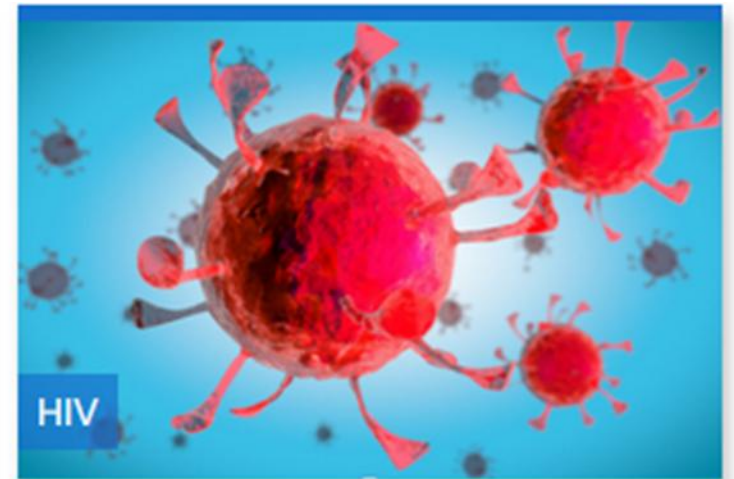
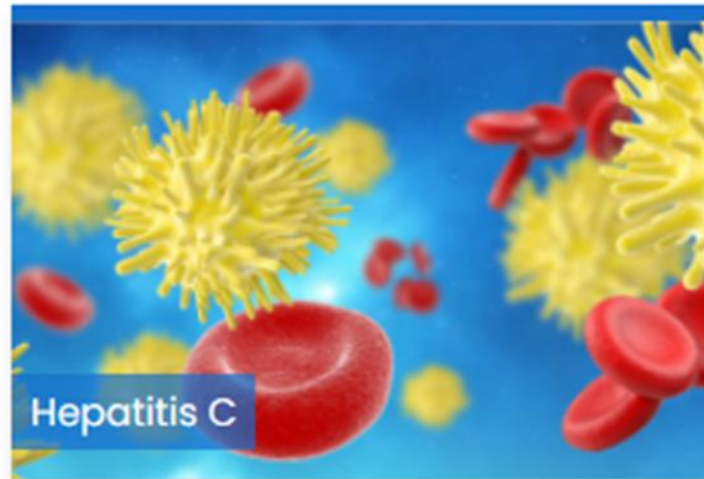
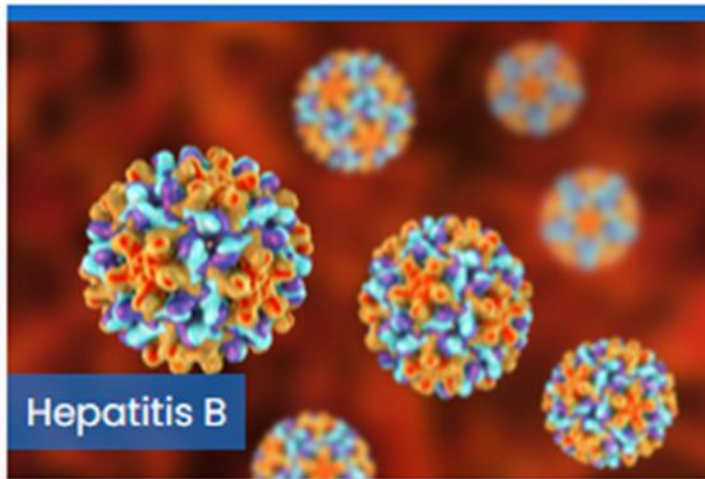
Jacqui is a registered nurse with a PhD who works at the Burnet Institute, in the Eliminate hepatitis C Australia Partnership. Jacqui also facilitates the BBV testing course for ACIPC and the Foundations of IPC. The broad focus of Jacqui's work is building the capacity of the health workforce to test, treat and manage the health care needs of people living with viral hepatitis.



# Blood Borne Viruses (BBV)



ACIPC  
Australasian College  
for Infection Prevention and Control





**Have you ever cared for a person living with a blood borne virus?**

# Overview

- Introducing HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C
  - How many people are living with a Blood Borne Virus (BBV)?
  - How are BBVs spread?
  - What happens when someone has a BBV?
  - What is the treatment?
  - Ageing and BBVs
  - How do we prevent BBV transmission?
    - Universal application of standard precautions





**Which Blood Borne Virus has a vaccine available?**

# Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) fast facts



- HIV is a virus that is spread through contact with blood and body fluids
  - Fluids must come into contact with mucous membranes or broken skin
  - Most common transmission routes:
    - Sexual
    - Parenteral (sharing injecting equipment, unsafe tattooing)
    - Vertical (mother to child)
  - Risk of contracting HIV after an occupational needle stick injury is 0.3%





# HIV fast facts



ACIPC  
Australasian College  
for Infection Prevention and Control

HIV IS **NOT** TRANSMITTED BY...



Insect bites



Toilet seats



Kissing



Sharing cutlery



Touching



# How many people have HIV?



ACIPC  
Australasian College  
for Infection Prevention and Control

- In 2023, ~ 39.9 million people were living with HIV
  - 1.3 million people were newly infected with HIV in 2023
  - 630,000 people died from an AIDS-related illness



# How many people have HIV in Australia?



- ~30,010 people are living with HIV in Australia at the end of 2023
  - 92% have been diagnosed
  - 97% were receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART)
    - Of all people living with HIV in Australia, an estimated 87% had a suppressed viral load.
- Undetectable = Untransmissible





**Which Blood Borne Virus has a vaccine available?**

# What happens when someone has HIV?



- HIV can be treated (not cured) which reduces the morbidity (illness) and mortality (death)
- If untreated, HIV can cause immunodeficiency and a range of opportunistic illnesses and cancers, known as Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS)



# Ageing with HIV

- People with HIV now have a near normal life expectancy
  - A person living with HIV aged 20 years, who start Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) today has:
    - 56.6 years (female) or 54.5 years (male) years left to live
    - By 2027, the greatest proportion of people with HIV will be aged 55 to 59 years
- The success of ART means people are now ageing with HIV
- HIV can promote and accelerate age-related conditions even when the ART is suppressing HIV
- Age related services may not be suited to the needs of people with HIV

# Ageing with HIV

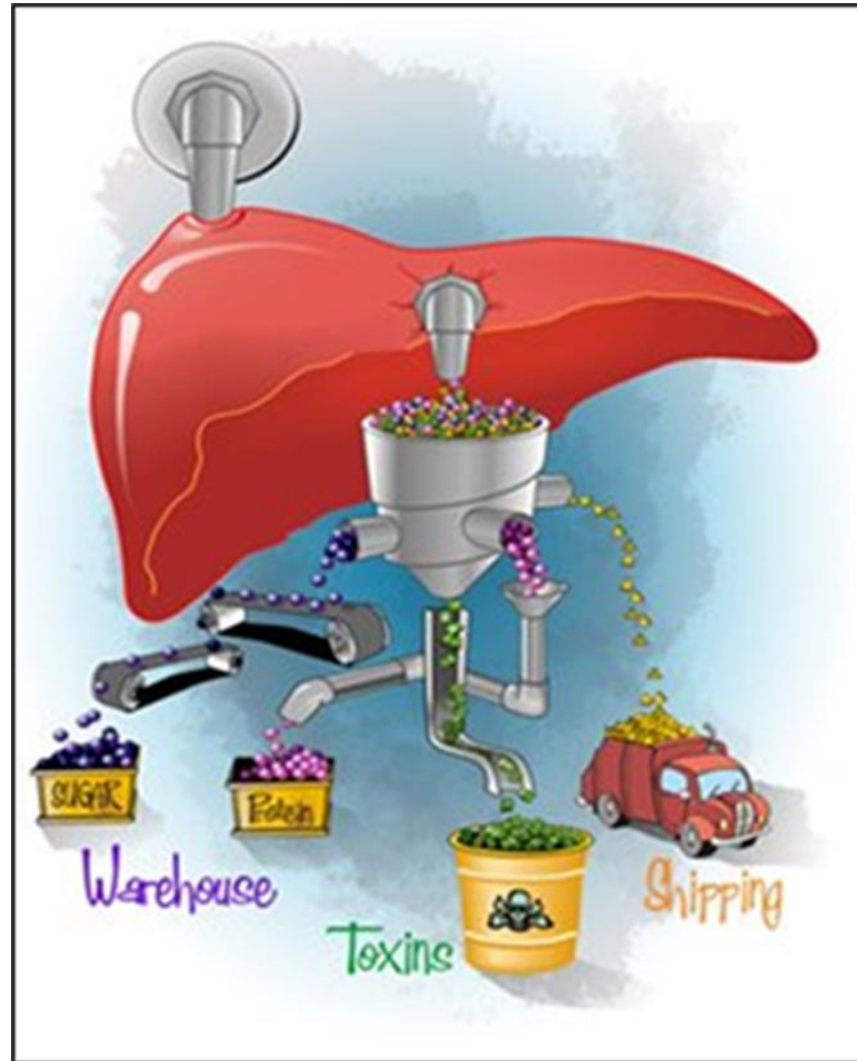


- People living with HIV are at increased risk of cardiovascular disease
- Other priorities for people with HIV as they age include:
  - Osteoporosis
  - Mental health
  - Menopause
- The National Association of People with HIV Australia (NAPWHA) have made a submission to the Department of Health and Aged Care for people living with HIV to have access to Government funded Aged Care Services from the age of 50 years – results pending (Dec 2024)



# Introducing the liver

- Hepatitis is a general term that means inflammation of the liver
  - Caused by viruses, infection chemicals, alcohol, drug use or other factors
- Hepatitis A, B, C, D and E are viruses that affect the liver
  - Different transmission and treatment
  - Hepatitis A and B are vaccine preventable

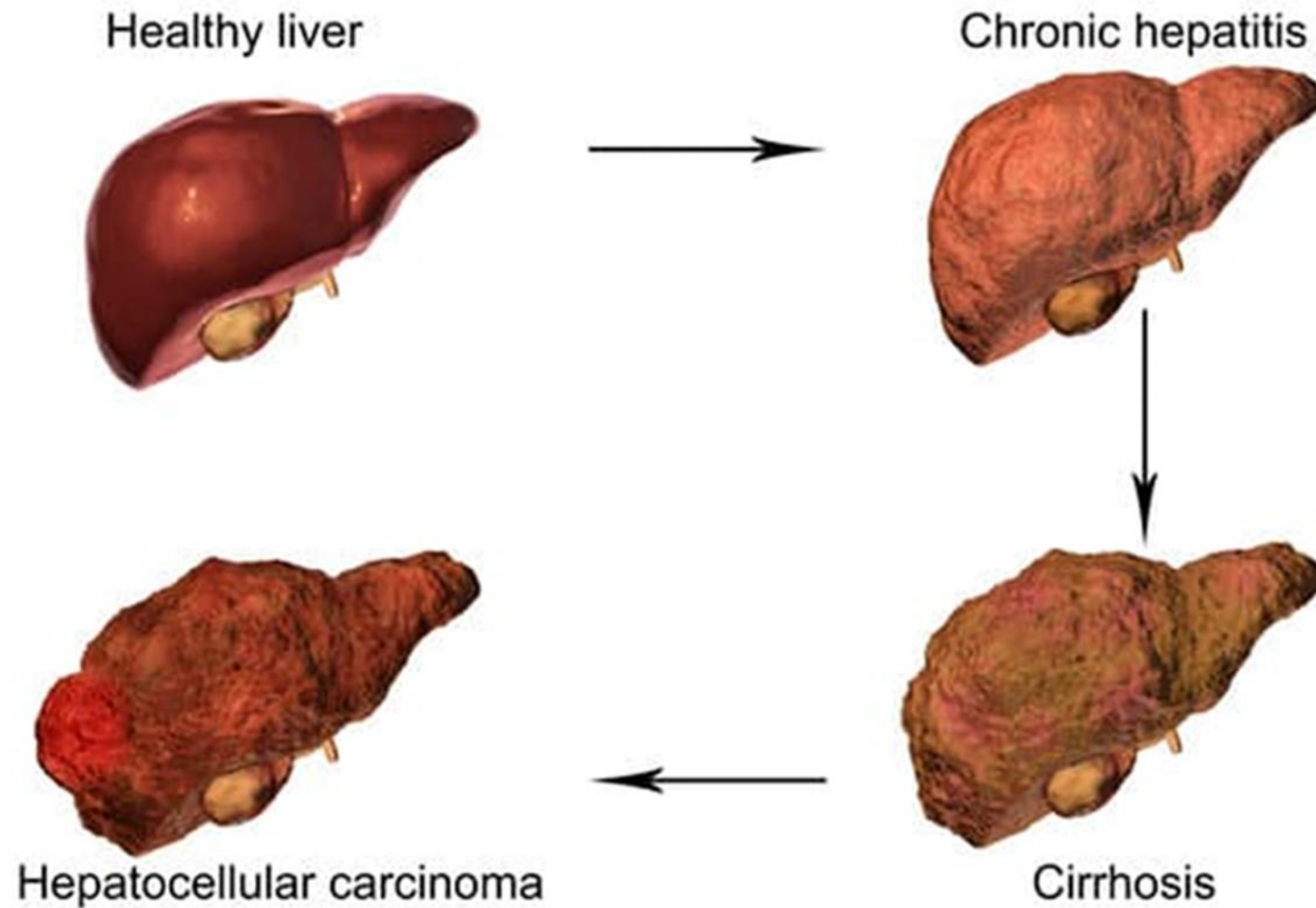




# Impact of hepatitis on the liver



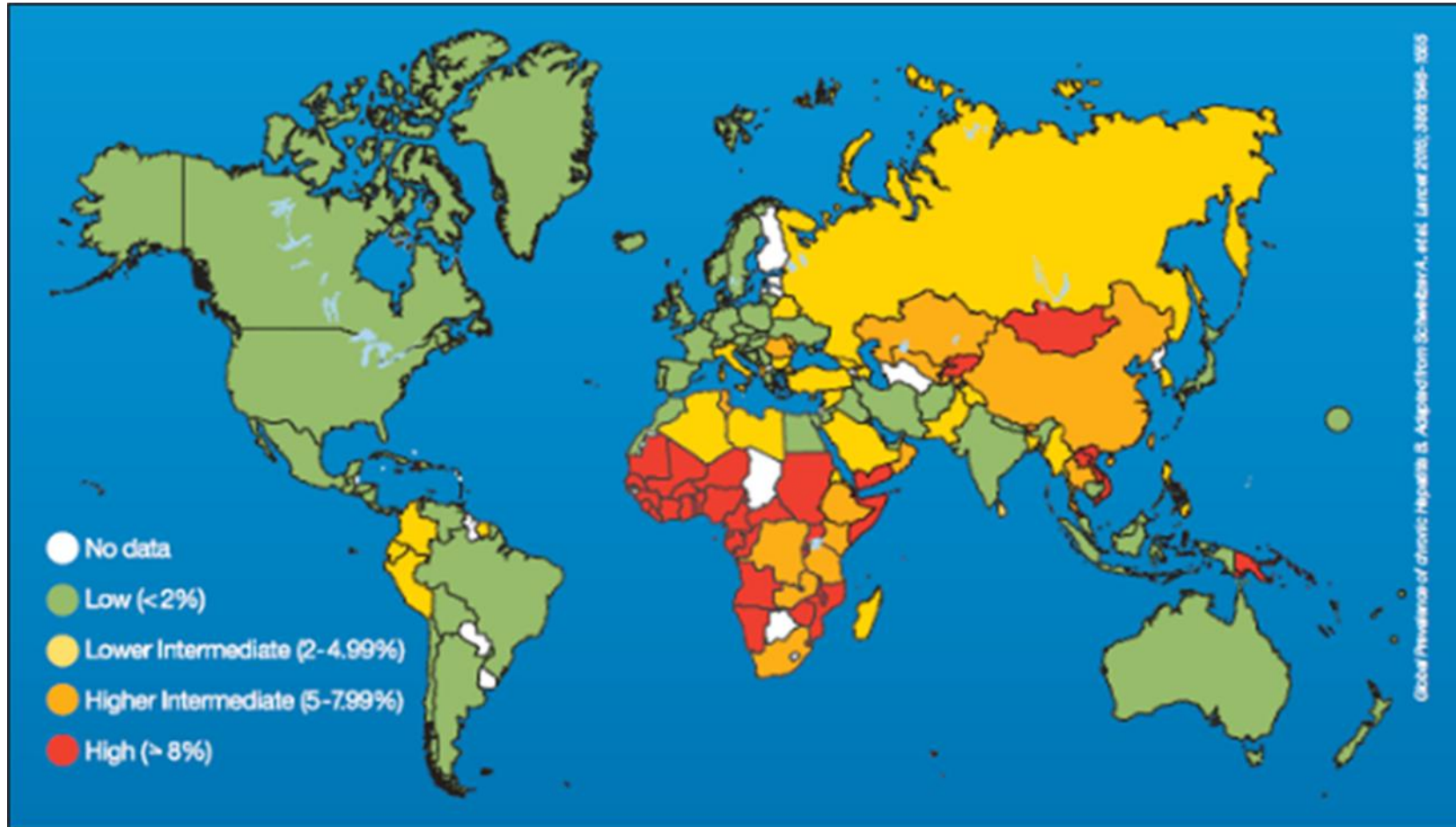
ACIPC  
Australasian College  
for Infection Prevention and Control



# Hepatitis B fast facts



ACIPC  
Australasian College  
for Infection Prevention and Control



Xiao et al. 2020. 'Think Hep B' in primary care: A before and after evaluation of a self-guided learning package.  
Australian Journal of General Practice. 2020 Jan; 49(1-2):66-69.

# Chronic Hepatitis B (CHB) fast facts



ACIPC  
Australasian College  
for Infection Prevention and Control

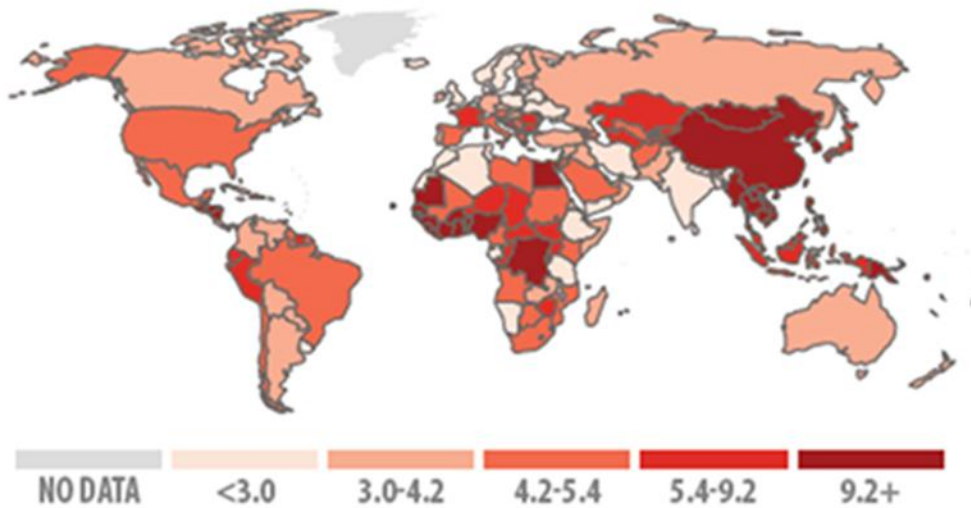
- 250 million people live with CHB globally
- 219,800 people were living with CHB in 2023
  - ~31% of people living with CHB are undiagnosed
- Hepatitis B is the most common blood borne virus in Australia
  - Spread through contact with blood and body fluids
  - 30% chance of transmission after an occupational needlestick injury if the source is unvaccinated
- Estimated to be the 10th leading cause of death globally
  - 2nd most important cancer-causing agent, after tobacco



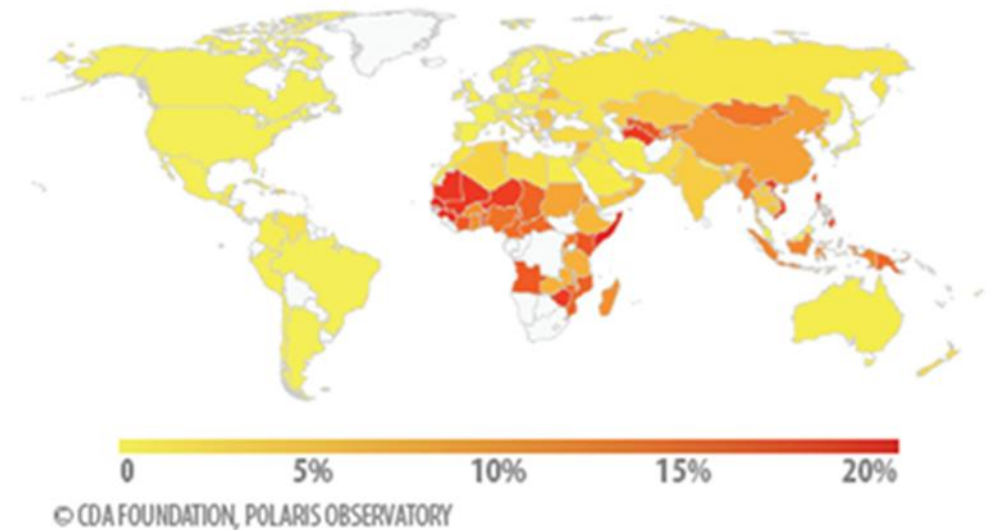
# Hepatitis B and Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC)

## HEP B AND HCC WORLDWIDE

GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION OF LIVER CANCER<sup>4</sup>



GLOBAL PREVALENCE OF HEPATITIS B<sup>5</sup>

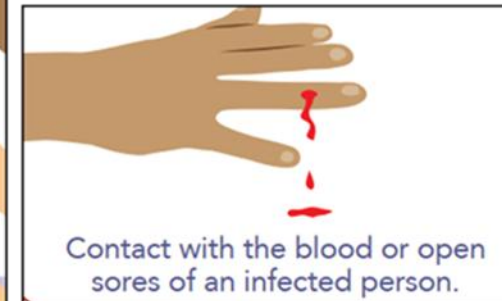




# How is hepatitis B spread?



ACIPC  
Australasian College  
for Infection Prevention and Control



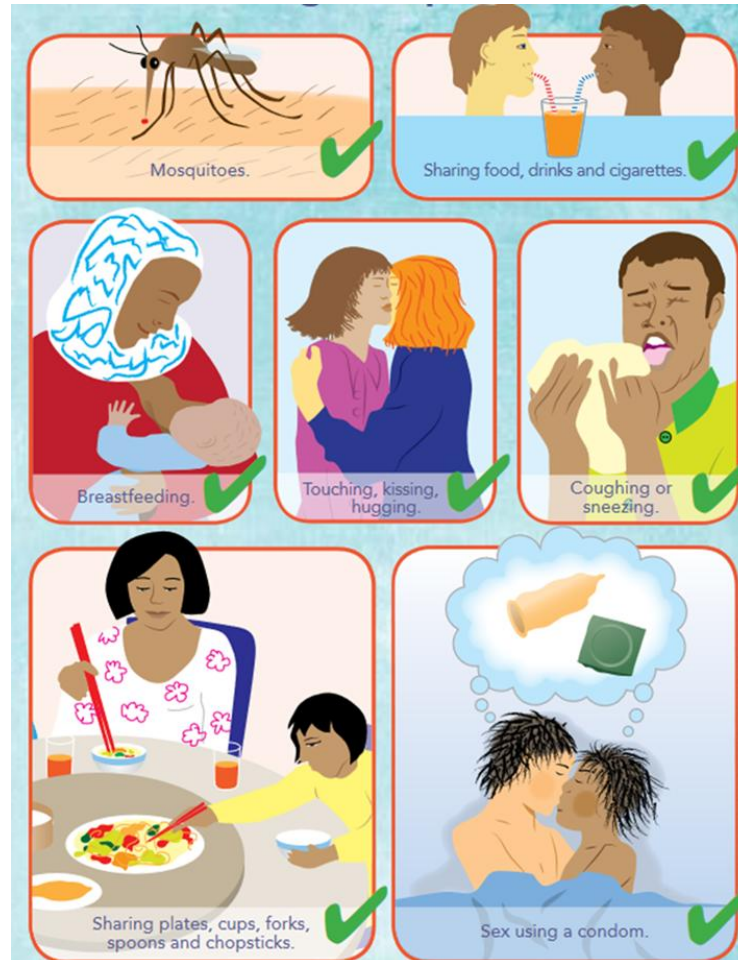
Images: The Hep B Story, [www.svhm.org.au](http://www.svhm.org.au)



# How is hepatitis B NOT spread?



ACIPC  
Australasian College  
for Infection Prevention and Control



# Prevention of hepatitis B

- Hepatitis B vaccine is the first anti-cancer vaccine
  - All babies born in Australia are offered hepatitis B vaccine at birth (0, 2, 4 and 6 months)
  - Adult course: 3 doses (0, 1 and 6 months)



# Hepatitis B management



- Monitoring recommended 6-12 monthly including liver function test, hepatitis B serology and viral load
- Antiviral treatment (oral tablets, indefinite duration) is available dependent on viral load and disease activity - Tenofovir and Entecavir
- The goals of treatment are:
  - To stop the virus from reproducing
  - Limit inflammation and fibrosis (developing scar tissue)
  - Prevent cirrhosis, liver failure and cancer
  - Reduce risk of mother-child transmission





# Ageing with Chronic Hepatitis B (CHB)



ACIPC  
Australasian College  
for Infection Prevention and Control

- Globally, older adults carry the greatest burden of CHB as they were born before childhood vaccination programs were introduced
- The longer an individual lives with CHB, the greater their risk of developing liver damage, cirrhosis, and cancer
- This emphasises the importance of maintaining active surveillance and monitoring of liver disease
- Physiological changes and the increasing prevalence of co-morbidities associated with ageing, may worsen outcomes in older people with CHB

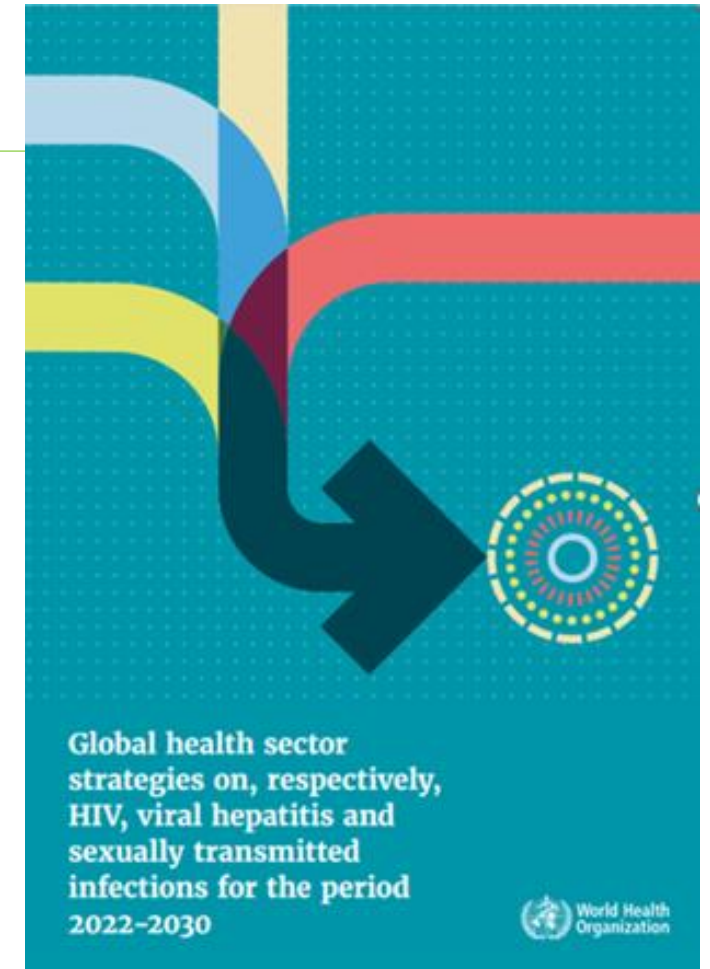




# Hepatitis C can be cured

# Global elimination of hepatitis C

- Australia has adopted the global hepatitis C elimination goal by 2030:
  - Reduce new infections, mortality and stigma
  - Increase diagnosis, treatment and cure rates



# Hepatitis C is curable!



ACIPC  
Australasian College  
for Infection Prevention and Control

## PRIMARY TREATMENTS

SOFOSBUVIR AND VELPATASVIR

GLECAPREVIR AND PIBRENTASVIR



**EPCLUSA**

FOR  
**ALL**  
GENOTYPES  
(1 TO 6)

**95-99%**  
OF PEOPLE  
CURED<sup>▲</sup>

**12**  
**WEEKS**



**MAVIRET**

FOR  
**ALL**  
GENOTYPES  
(1 TO 6)

**95-99%**  
OF PEOPLE  
CURED<sup>▲</sup>

**8**  
**WEEKS\***

**WHO ARE THEY FOR?** ANYONE WHO HAS HEP C AND A MEDICARE CARD

<sup>▲</sup> MOST PEOPLE HAVE NO OR VERY MILD SIDE-EFFECTS    <sup>\*</sup> FOR A SMALL NUMBER OF PEOPLE, TREATMENT MAY LAST LONGER

IMPORTANT NOTE: TO MAKE SURE YOU ARE CURED, YOU NEED TO GET A  
PCR BLOOD TEST AT LEAST 12 WEEKS AFTER YOU FINISH YOUR TREATMENT.

# Hepatitis C fast facts



- ~68,900 people living with hepatitis C at the end of 2023
  - New infections have declined
- 105,940 people have been treated for hepatitis C between 2016 and the end of 2023
- Fewer people need liver transplant for hepatitis C-related cirrhosis
- Hepatitis C is spread through blood-to-blood contact
  - ~3% risk of transmission after an occupational needle stick injury
- Over 70% of people who use drugs surveyed experienced stigma and discrimination



# Hepatitis C fast facts



ACIPC  
Australasian College  
for Infection Prevention and Control

Ab + + RNA + = **Infected with HCV NOW**

Ab + + RNA - = **Infected with HCV in the PAST**

Ab - = **NEVER** infected with HCV

● **Ab + (antibody test/anti-HCV)**  
Has EVER come into contact with HCV

Ab is screening test

● **RNA +**  
Infected with the virus NOW

RNA confirms current infection



# Hepatitis C and ageing



ACIPC  
Australasian College  
for Infection Prevention and Control

- No one should age with hepatitis C!
- Hepatitis C can be CURED!
- Remember hepatitis C antibodies will stay in the blood forever, even when the person is cured (and no longer has hepatitis C infection)



# Caring for people with a BBV



- Delivering culturally appropriate care is an important consideration for people with HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C
- Stigma sensitive care is critical
  - Language matters – avoid stigmatising language and terms





# Stigma stops people with BBV accessing health care



ACIPC  
Australasian College  
for Infection Prevention and Control

- Stigma and discrimination related to BBV status can prevent access to healthcare.
- HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C-related stigma and discrimination is strongly associated with the risk behaviours of infection.
- People being tested for BBVs often experience marginalisation and they may face additional barriers to accessing/navigating health services.





# Stigma stops people with BBV accessing health care

- Most commonly report context for hepatitis C–related discrimination is health care settings
- Infection Prevention and Control leads have an important role in identifying and challenging discriminatory behaviour
- We must model:
  - Respect
  - Empathy
  - Tolerance





**What are some examples of standard precautions you use in your daily work? (1 or 2 words)**

# Prevention of BBV transmission in aged care



- According to the Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Healthcare (National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), 2019):
- Standard precautions should be used in the handling of all:
  - blood (including dried blood)
  - all other body substances, secretions and excretions (excluding sweat), regardless of whether they contain visible blood
  - non-intact skin; and mucous membranes.



# Prevention of BBV transmission in aged care



- Standard precautions consist of:
  - Hand hygiene, as consistent with the 5 moments for hand hygiene
  - Use of appropriate personal protective equipment
  - Safe use and disposal of sharps
  - Routine environmental cleaning
  - Reprocessing of reusable medical equipment and instruments
  - Respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette
  - Aseptic technique
  - Waste management
  - Appropriate handling of linen (NHMRC, 2019).



# Prevention of BBV transmission in aged care



- Bouchaucha and Moore (2018) interviewed 29 nurses at a large metropolitan Australian hospital and found adherence to standard precautions was influenced by:
  - Organisational culture
  - Role modelling
  - Leadership
  - Presence of contextual cues
  - Judgement/risk assessment of the patient's perceived health status





**Which is the correct first step after a  
needlestick injury?**

# Prevention of BBV transmission in aged care



*Sometimes, depending on the patient, if it is a normal patient I don't wear gloves but if it is a patient that has very flaky skin, does not look very well kept and looked after then I would put gloves on to protect myself. You kind of eyeball the patient (Participant 15)*

*I can give examples of nurses getting needle stick injuries with a patient and not reporting it saying that she [the patient] doesn't look like she has HIV or anything... so I guess as well as risk assessment some of it you could classify as prejudice assessment as well (Participant 24)*





# Prevention of BBV transmission in aged care



- Another participant commented that:

*[Standard Precautions] use should be universally and there is a need for a shift in mentality so that everyone [is viewed] as infectious. (Participant 12)*





**What is the most effective way to prevent BBV transmission in aged care?**

# Summary



- Everyone working in healthcare needs to understand BBV transmission and the importance of standard precautions as the primary prevention strategy
- BBV-related stigma (real or fear of) prevents people from accessing health care and subsequently impacts healthcare outcomes
- We all have a role to play in addressing BBV-related stigma by educating ourselves and treating everyone in the same way





**What's one thing you've learned today  
that you'll take back to your team?**

# ACIPC BBV testing course



ACIPC  
Australasian College  
for Infection Prevention and Control



[www.acipc.org.au/education/blood-borne-virus-testing-course](http://www.acipc.org.au/education/blood-borne-virus-testing-course)

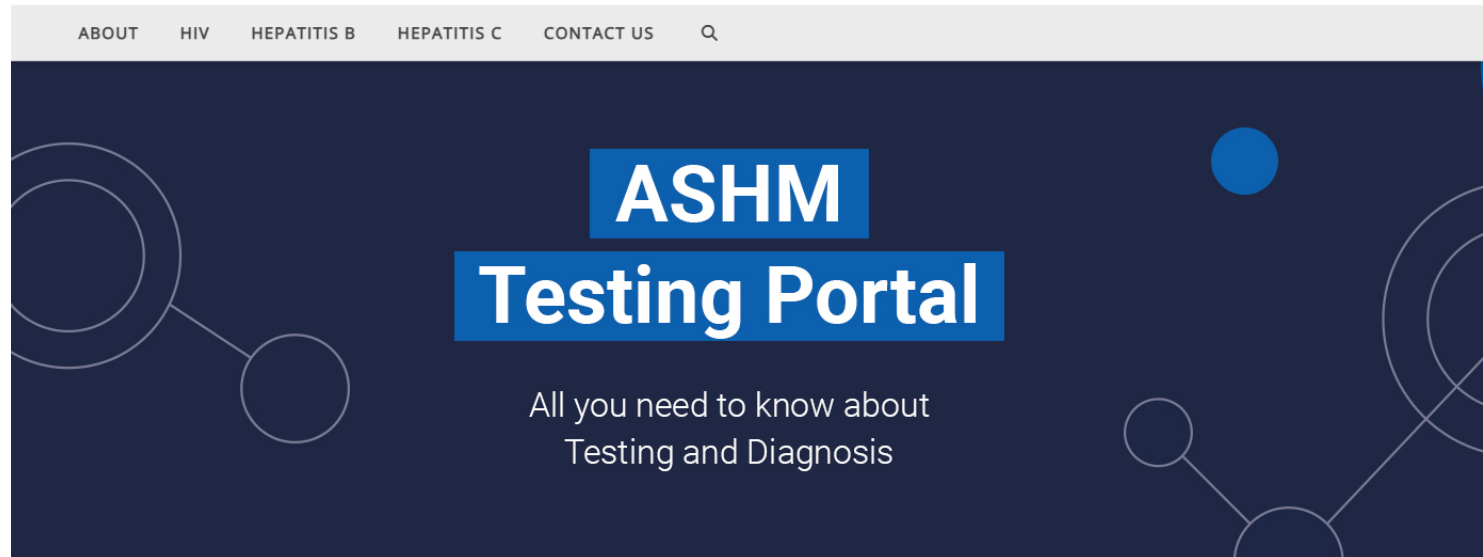
# BBV testing policies



ACIPC  
Australasian College  
for Infection Prevention and Control



**ashm** | Testing Portal



The Testing Policies are for health professionals ordering HIV, hepatitis C and hepatitis B tests and receiving, interpreting and delivering results to patients. They set out a framework for providing quality testing and removing real and perceived barriers to testing.

The web based provision of the policies allows for regular revision and access to related resources with download and print functions.

Expert Reference Committees guide the development and updating of each testing policy.

<https://testingportal.ashm.org.au/>





# ASHM Health – BBV info for health professionals

**Educational Resource**

**ashm** HIV Prescriber CPD Suggestions

## HIV Prescriber CPD Suggestions 2024-25

Explore suggested CPD activities for HIV s100 prescribers to easily earn and track CPD points.

[Find out more](#)

**Clinical Tool**

**ashm** Long Acting Injectable HIV Treatment Tool

## Long-Acting Injectable HIV Treatment Tool

Long-acting injectable treatment for HIV is now available in Australia. This quick-reference tool offers HIV s100 Prescribers and other heal

[Find out more](#)

**Clinical Tool**

**ashm** Decision Making in HIV

## Decision Making In HIV

The Decision-Making in HIV resource is an essential guide for healthcare professionals involved in HIV testing, management, and treatment.

[Find out more](#)

**Clinical Tool**

**ashm** Decision Making in Hepatitis C

## Decision Making In Hepatitis C

2-page guide designed to support primary care providers in effectively managing hepatitis C.

[Find out more](#)

**Educational Resource**

**ashm** Viral Hepatitis Mapping Project: National Reports

## Viral Hepatitis Mapping Project : National Reports

The Viral Hepatitis Mapping Project aims to facilitate a comprehensive understanding of chronic hepatitis B (CHB) and chronic hepatitis C (C

[Find out more](#)

**Clinical Tool**

**ashm** REACH-C

## REACH-C

REACH-C: A platform for s100 prescribers to seek specialist review & advice on hepatitis C cases. Quick, expert support in 48 hours.

[Find out more](#)

**Guideline**

**ashm** ASHM Testing Portal

## ASHM Testing Portal

Designed for healthcare professionals and pathologists who order or conduct HIV, hepatitis C, and hepatitis B tests.

[Find out more](#)

**Clinical Tool**

**ashm** REACH-B Advice

## REACH-B Advice

REACH-B Advice: A platform for s100 prescribers to seek specialist review & advice on hepatitis B cases. Quick, expert support in 48 hours.

[Find out more](#)

**Educational Resource**

**ashm** Stigma and discrimination Resources

## Stigma And Discrimination Resources

Enhance your understanding of the impact of stigma and discrimination on patient care with this comprehensive resource.

[Find out more](#)

[www.ashm.org.au](http://www.ashm.org.au)



# Consumer information on HIV - National Association of People with HIV Australia (NAPWHA)




ACIPC  
Australasian College  
for Infection Prevention and Control

CONTACT SUBSCRIBE



**napwha**  
national association of  
people with HIV Australia

HIV & Health ▾ Communities ▾ Get Involved ▾ Projects & Initiatives ▾ News ▾ About ▾ 

## Advocacy, representation, policy & health promotion for people with HIV

### 'Pass it on'

HIV treatments are now so good that as well as keeping people with HIV healthy, they also stop transmission of the virus.

### Treatment for all

Changes to HIV treatment for everyone visiting or living in Australia, including for people who are Medicare ineligible.

### HIV self-testing kits

Discreet, easy to use, and highly accurate HIV self-testing kits. Test regularly for HIV in the privacy of your own home. Results in just 15 minutes.

### Community Champions 2024

We're seeking nominations for remarkable individuals in five inspiring categories. Nominations close 8 September 2024.

### Older peoples service directory

Catalogue of services for people with HIV who are 50+ years old, however, it is suitable for all people with HIV who are in need of care services.

### Mpox alert

People With HIV are advised to get two vaccinations within 28 days.

<https://napwha.org.au/>

Home > Older people with HIV

## Older people with HIV

People over 50 make up the largest group of people with HIV in Australia. NAPWHA is committed to supporting this community by providing information, opportunities to connect, and advocating for the rights of those requiring aged care services before the age of 65.



# Hepatitis Australia



ACIPC  
Australasian College  
for Infection Prevention and Control



Info line

Donate

About us

Hepatitis information

How to get help

Get involved

Our work

News

Workforce

## Other Languages

Hepatitis Australia resources translated into various  
languages

<https://www.hepatitisaustralia.com/>



**Australasian College  
for Infection Prevention and Control**



# Aged Care

**IPC Community of Practice:**  
Aged Care Connexion  
Resources  
Webinars



Jacqui Richmond PhD, MPH, RN  
Burnet Institute, Melbourne  
ACIPC Education Facilitator.  
[Jacqui.Richmond@acipc.org.au](mailto:Jacqui.Richmond@acipc.org.au)  
[Jacqui.Richmond@burnet.edu.au](mailto:Jacqui.Richmond@burnet.edu.au)



# ACIPC

Australasian College  
for Infection Prevention and Control

**Australasian College for Infection Prevention and Control**

Level 6 , 152 Macquarie Street

Hobart TAS 7000

03 6281 9239

[office@acipc.org.au](mailto:office@acipc.org.au)

[www.acipc.org.au](http://www.acipc.org.au)