

National Standard for Certification of Community HCV s100 Prescribers (shared care)

Medical practitioners who are hospital-based or in general practice and who are not specialists affiliated with hospitals having appropriate specialist facilities, may apply for authority to prescribe antiviral drugs for the treatment of hepatitis C (HCV) as part of an expanded access program which has been approved by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing. This authority covers only the writing of follow-up prescriptions (shared care) following initiation of therapy by a specialist practicing in the hospital setting.

Applicants must fulfil the following criteria:

1. They must have:
 - (a) Have successfully completed an HCV prescriber training course (and associated assessment) which meets or exceeds the standard of training conducted by ASHM on behalf of NSW Health and ACT Health, Victorian Department of Human Services as part of the HCV Prescribing Pilot* **or**
 - (b) substantial experience as a consultant physician or registrar or general practitioner in a liver clinic with a significant HCV caseload **or**
 - (c) completed 20 half-day sessions (or equivalent) in a specialist liver clinic with significant HCV caseload, with access to a senior on-site hepatitis C specialist **or**
 - (d) current authorisation from another Australian State or Territory participating in this program **and**
Be deemed by an appropriately recognised State or Territory clinical advisory committee to have appropriate grounding and experience in the practice of HCV medicine, and be thus authorised by the appropriate Health Department Official, such as the Chief Health Officer.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of relevant state, territory and federal guidelines for the management of occupational exposure to HCV and infection control guidelines.
3. Provide evidence of appropriate support from senior clinicians from a designated Liver Clinic unit in a public hospital and access to other clinic staff and services.
4. Demonstrate commitment to and preparedness to participate in ongoing education.