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Tēnā koe Natalie,

NORTHERN REGION RESET HEPATITIS C PROGRAMME

Thank you for your letter seeking feedback from The Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners about the Northern Region reset hepatitis C programme. This programme, which is coordinated by the Northern Regional Alliance (NRA), aims to increase access to community testing, assessment, and treatment in priority populations. 50 pharmacies across the northern region will be recruited and point of care testing will be made available at these pharmacies.

Unfortunately, we were not able to obtain feedback from our members in the timeframe given. However, I assume that you have already consulted with local general practices and clinics as well as the Auckland Faculty of the College? They may be better placed to help.

We note that this programme aims to reach those who cannot or will not engage with a GP or other community clinic.

We appreciate that this programme is focused on a single disease. We encourage you to also take a patient-centred approach, which could include assisting and encouraging those not engaged with primary health care services to make that connection. Data on the number of people who enrolled as a result could be among the indicators monitored by the programme.

General practices and urgent care clinics who see many individuals at high risk of Hepatitis would find point of care testing for Hepatitis C beneficial in encouraging opportunistic screening.

We look forward to updates on the progress of the NRA reset hepatitis C programme.

Nāku noa, nā,

Dr Bryan Betty
MBChB, FRNZCGP, FACRRM
Medical Director | Mātanga Hauora