PROMPtt aimed to overcome critical roadblocks to hepatitis C virus (HCV) treatment by providing Point of Care (PoC) testing and direct linkage to treatment in the priority settings of mental health, prisons, and alcohol and other drug services.

We have demonstrated that it is feasible to provide HCV PoC testing in the priority settings of mental health, prisons and drug and alcohol settings. PoC testing is very effective in engaging people with treatment uptake. PoC screening HCV Ab reflexing to PoC HCV RNA is effective, cheaper and more efficient than PoC RNA testing alone.

The project has expanded successfully into a local homelessness service. Over 50% of PROMPtt participants reported being recently homeless, which highlighted the need to increase testing opportunities for people experiencing homelessness.

### Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>1,549</strong></th>
<th><strong>HCV Ab + RNA</strong></th>
<th><strong>12%</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>people tested over a 12-month period.</td>
<td>Combined HCV Ab and RNA PoC testing has resulted in testing scale-up at each service.</td>
<td>increase in the rate of HCV Ab testing for the total population between the retrospective standard of care period and the study intervention period.</td>
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</table>

98% of people preferred PoC finger prick testing with same day results, over the standard method of venous blood collection with a one-week wait for results. The overall RNA positivity rate for the priority settings was 4%.

- Remand prison – 5%
- Drug & Alcohol inpatient unit – 2%
- Mental health inpatient unit – 3%

85% of those diagnosed with hepatitis C via PoC testing commenced treatment after working with site staff and local viral hepatitis nurses in priority settings.

### Learnings

- We have demonstrated that it is feasible to provide HCV PoC testing in the priority settings of mental health, prisons and AOD services.
- PoC testing is very effective in engaging people with treatment uptake.
- PoC screening HCV Ab reflexing to PoC HCV RNA is effective, cheaper and more efficient than PoC RNA testing alone.
- Working with site staff and local viral hepatitis nurses is effective in facilitating HCV treatment.
- A better understanding of South Australia’s HCV RNA positivity rates in traditionally recognised priority settings helps inform local hepatitis C testing strategy.

### Applying our learnings

The project has expanded successfully into a local homelessness service. Over 50% of PROMPtt participants reported being recently homeless, which highlighted the need to increase testing opportunities for people experiencing homelessness.