

Innovative data use an important step in eliminating hep B

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A team of researchers in the Northern Territory (NT) have designed and tested a new algorithm to determine hepatitis B status.

In this collaborative study the research team used data linkage of existing hepatitis B virus (HBV) tests, vaccination data and a computerised algorithm to determine a person's hepatitis B status - immune, non-immune or infected.

A thorough quality assurance exercise was then undertaken to check the accuracy of this code before allocating people to a care pathway. By systematically, manually reviewing all available data the researchers were able to allocate an HBV status to 91 per cent of the study population - exceeding national targets.

By determining HBV status, clinicians can provide appropriate clinical care and work towards the elimination of chronic hepatitis (CHB).

The full paper, *'Data linkage and computerised algorithmic coding to enhance individual clinical care for Aboriginal people living with chronic hepatitis B in the Northern Territory of Australia – is it feasible?'*, [is available on PLoS One](#).

This research has informed the methodology for the Menzies School of Health Research partnership project *Hep B PAST – Partnership Approach to sustainably eliminating Chronic Hepatitis B in the Northern Territory* which is working towards the elimination of CHB in the NT.

The other partners are the NT Government, Katherine West Health Board, Miwatj, the Australasian Society for HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexual Health Medicine and the NT AIDS and Hepatitis Council.

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Menzies School of Health Research

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