

WORLD HEPATITIS DAY 2020

We mark World Hepatitis Day globally on 28 July. In 2020 we asked our community to help with the worldwide goal of hepatitis elimination by 2030 by starting a conversation - talking to friends, family or a doctor.

New revolutionary hepatitis C treatments are widely available in Australia. They have very high cure rates. Treatment is simple - tablets not injections, few if any side effects.

WHAT ARE THE ISSUES FOR THE BLEEDING DISORDERS COMMUNITY?

Many Australians with bleeding disorders and hep C have now had treatment and been cured. See their stories on the World Hepatitis Day page on the HFA website - <https://tinyurl.com/BD-WHepD2020>.

Have you been cured of hep C? How is your liver going? Ask your hepatitis specialist or GP if you need follow-up for your liver health. For example, if you have cirrhosis and have successful treatment, you will still need ongoing care of your liver.

Some people with bleeding disorders or who carry the gene may not realise they have hep C. You could be at risk if you ever had a blood product before 1993. Is this you or someone you know? Have you ever been tested for hep C? If not, now is the time to talk to your doctor about a hepatitis test - and have treatment to be cured, if you do have hep C!

Thousands of Australians are now living free of hep C, but many have not yet had treatment. Treatment is simple and nearly all are cured – start the conversation.

From the President (cont.)

We are keen to demonstrate in the upcoming government reviews that new and emerging therapies that are life changing for patients, and will improve their health dramatically, can also be cost effective for governments. The problem is that some of the processes for evaluating these newer products are no longer fit for purpose. I look forward to our contributions to these reviews, and work with stakeholders to make sure the National Blood Agreement continues to ensure the most suitable treatment products for bleeding disorders are available to everyone across the country.

There is a small number of people with bleeding disorders and hep C whose treatment has not yet been successful. Close liaison between their hepatitis specialists and their Haemophilia Treatment Centre is very important for their care. Research into new and improved hep C treatments continues.

As a Partner in the national World Hepatitis Day Campaign, HFA works with Hepatitis Australia and State and Territory Foundations on the annual national awareness campaign and is committed to making a difference on hepatitis C in Australia.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit

- www.world.hepatitisday.org.au
- The HFA World Hepatitis Day page - <https://tinyurl.com/BD-WHepD2020> #

NATIONAL PATIENT REPRESENTATION

In closing, I wanted to mention that we continue to work with individuals from South Australia and the Northern Territory, although we do not have formal membership of the HFA Council. We are pleased we have been able to maintain an observer from South Australia on the Council and that community representatives are well engaged in the Haemophilia Treatment Network committee to ensure the patient voice is heard in South Australia. #