

New Zealand Hepatology Nurses Annual Report

New Zealand Society of Gastroenterology Annual Scientific Meeting

Rotorua 7th December 2023

Committee: Judith McLaughlin (Chair), Bridget Faire (Secretary), Jessica Southall (NZgNC liaison), Jacqui Stone, Susan Gale

The focus for 2023 has been on education for our hepatology nurses. We have continued to progress the development of a knowledge and skills framework. Twelve nurses accepted the opportunity to participate in professional development for nursing patients with advanced liver disease, funded by the sub-group.

We have also raised awareness of the group by contacting key stakeholders so that we may be consulted on matters affecting patients with or at risk of liver disease.

ABBVIE put on a nurse's education day focusing on working towards HCV elimination. There were presentations of results from various regional pilots in point of care testing for hepatitis C antibodies and lookback data. We took the opportunity to raise awareness of the group, and membership has continued to grow. Dr Amanda Chen spoke at the meeting and introduced herself as part of the hepatology special interest group of NZSG and that we plan to work in close partnership moving forward. We have created a hepatology nurses gmail account, nzhpng.chair@gmail.com, as a point of contact going forward.

We funded our committee members membership to the Australasian Hepatology Association.

The group has focused on three main projects this year.

- 1) The main focus this year has been the progression of the knowledge and skills framework. The committee has met face to face twice this year, and with the wider group of hepatology nurses prior to conference. We hope to publish these in the New Year and then start work on guidelines to support these.
- 2) We updated the Terms of Reference (TOR) to align with the NZgNC TOR.
- 3) We have contributed articles to the Panui and Tube magazine each edition, and these have focused on updated guidelines and best practice.

With the establishment of Te Whatu Ora Health NZ, we are looking forward to national guidelines and working with the NZ Society of Gastroenterology to establish these. Some of us have been involved in the writing of national health pathways documents relating to liver disease.

Going forward, we are refocusing our efforts on writing guidelines to support our knowledge and skills framework. These are intended to be used by nurses working in a variety of settings from primary care to prisons to the transplant unit.