

Criteria Grid
Hepatitis C Research Studies, Tools, and Surveillance Systems

Best Practice/Intervention:	Watkins et al. (2009). Testing for sexually transmitted infections and blood borne illnesses on admission to Western Australian prisons, <i>BMC Public Health</i> , 9, 385.			
Date of Review:	March 22, 2011			
Reviewer(s):	Alison Marshall			
Part A				
Category:	Basic Science <input type="checkbox"/> Clinical Science <input type="checkbox"/> Public Health/Epidemiology <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Science <input type="checkbox"/> Programmatic Review <input type="checkbox"/>			
Best Practice/Intervention:	Focus: Hepatitis C <input type="checkbox"/> Hepatitis C/HIV <input type="checkbox"/> Other: STIs and Blood Borne Viruses Level: Group <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Individual <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ Target Population: <u>Prisoners admitted in Western Australia</u> Setting: Health care setting/Clinic <input type="checkbox"/> Home <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Prisons, metropolitan and regional</u> Country of Origin: <u>Australia</u> Language: English <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> French <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____			
Part B				
	YES	NO	N/A	COMMENTS
<i>Is the best practice/intervention a meta-analysis or primary research?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Primary Research; 946 Prisoner medical records were audited.
<i>Has the data/information been used for decision-making (e.g. program funding developments, policies, treatment guidelines, defining research priorities and funding)?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Testing prisoners at entry is voluntary (very small refusal rate, less than 1%). Results are not comprehensive and vary by age, gender, and Aboriginal status. Article argues for increased test coverage to be in accordance with State health guidelines and to use the opportunity for treatment and control of STIs and BBV among high risk groups.
<i>Do the methodology/results described allow the reviewer(s) to assess the generalizability of the results?</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Are the best practices/methodology/results described applicable in developed countries?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Specimens only available from 40% of the prisoners admitted and since prevalence is not known for remaining 60% generalizability would be very limited but adds emphasis on major conclusion that all prisoners admitted should be tested and treated as appropriate.
	YES	NO	N/A	COMMENTS
Are the best practices/methodology/results described applicable in developing countries?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Generally, yes. Although authors recommend electronic medical records systems.
The research study/tool/data dictionary is easily accessed/available electronically	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19825156
Is there evidence of cost effective analysis with regard to interventions, diagnosis, treatment, or surveillance methodologies? If so, what does the evidence say? Please go to Comments section	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Are there increased costs (infrastructure, manpower, skills/training, analysis of data) to using the research study/tool/data dictionary?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
How is the research study/tool funded? Please go to Comments section	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NHMRC Capacity Building Grant in Population Health #358424.
Is the best practice/intervention dependent on external funds?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other relevant criteria: <u>Notable Findings</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Almost half of sample had STI testing and 40% had one BBV test. • 24.8% had a positive Hepatitis C result of 330 prisoners tested. • Non-Aboriginals were more likely to have positive hepatitis C results (38.3%) than Aboriginals (14.8%); and adults (26.6%) had more positive results than juveniles (10.8%). • Comparatively lower rates of hepatitis C testing relative to apparent disease risk for females and non-Aboriginal males. • Following this audit, routine collection

				of an additional blood sample for hepatitis C RNA testing was instituted.
WITHIN THE SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM FOR REVIEW				
<i>Are these data regularly collected?</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Collected regularly but varies considerably by age, gender, and Aboriginal status.
<i>Are these data regularly collected at and/or below a national level?</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	State health guidelines for Western Australian Department of Correctional Services Policy to offer testing to all new prison entrants.
<i>Are these data collected manually or electronically?</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Prison medical records.
RESEARCH REPORTS				
<i>Has this research been published in a juried journal?</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	BMC Public Health
<i>Does the evidence utilize the existing data/surveillance information or has it generated new data and/or information?</i> Please go to Comments section	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	A retrospective audit of existing prison medical records was conducted to provide information on prevalence of STIs and BBVs in prisons and the completeness and timeliness of STI and BBV testing in prison settings.