Accelerated access to Hepatitis B vaccination for prisoners

**Aim Statement:**
By January 2019, increase the rate of Hepatitis B vaccination for prisoners residing in Metropolitan Special Programs Centre (MSPC) Area 1 at Long Bay Gaol by 10%.

**Background:**
Research shows that vaccinating prisoners in custody increases vaccination cover for people who inject drugs and are most-at-risk for Hepatitis B (HBV) infection.

**Team members**
- **Sponsor (Project Guidance):** Terri Sheehan (Operational Nurse Manager)
- **Project Team Members:**
  - Kristen McKee (Transitional Nurse Practitioner)
  - Kim Campbell-Davis (Clinical Nurse Specialist)
- **Data Advisor:** Greg Cheguelman (Surveillance Officer)
- **Quality Advisor:** Michelle Eason (Director, Organisational Development Unit)

**Driver Diagram**

**Process**
Meetings and focus group discussions were held with nurses and managers to identify opportunities to improve vaccination:
- Vaccination accreditation for registered nurses requires attendance of a 150 hour course and may result in leaving vaccinating to “champions”
- Staff reported confusion about vaccinating and reporting of vaccinations
- If no medical officer is available, nurse must phone afterhours service for authorization and complete additional paperwork.
- PHN reported an inability to screen all new prisoners for BBV in a timely manner.
- Confusion about the patient administration system (PAS) and wait-listing of patients for vaccination by Primary Care Nurses

**Baseline levels of HBV vaccination**

**Outcomes:**
- New code introduced September 2018 allows direct measurement of HBV vaccinations.
- New standing order approved in December 2018 for piloting at Long Bay Gaol.
- Early data reports show good reporting of HBV vaccination at the pilot site and increased vaccination at control sites.
- A low rate of vaccination amongst Indigenous prisoners was identified and addressed in December 2018.

**Plans to sustain change:**
This research will be expanded into a more substantive research program in 2019 to address the low level of monitoring of chronic HBV infection.

**Plans to spread / share change:**
- Continue to feedback results to nursing staff
- Publish substantive research findings
- Share with ACI
- Enter as quality award