# Detection and evaluation of chronic hepatitis B and C patients who were lost to medical follow up

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**Background** Treatment options for hepatitis B and C have improved rapidly last years. Detecting chronic hepatitis B and C who are lost to follow up, enables bringing them back into medical concern and evaluate their treatment indication. Severe long term complications as well as viral transmission can hereby be prevented. To identify the most effective detection method, we compared two methods: detection using laboratory reports versus detection using regional public health service (RPHS) mandatory notification records.

## Results

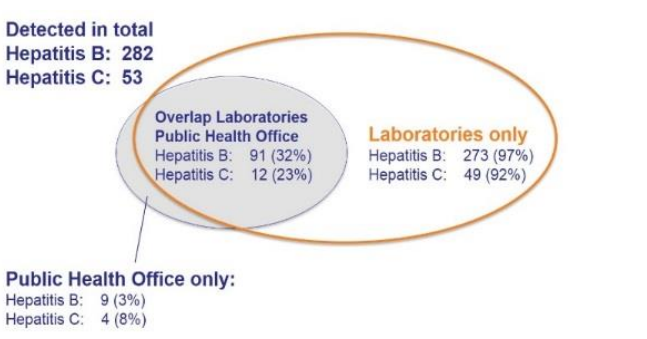


Figure 1: Numbers of detected hepatitis B and C patients in total and per detection method in the past 15 years in Arnhem

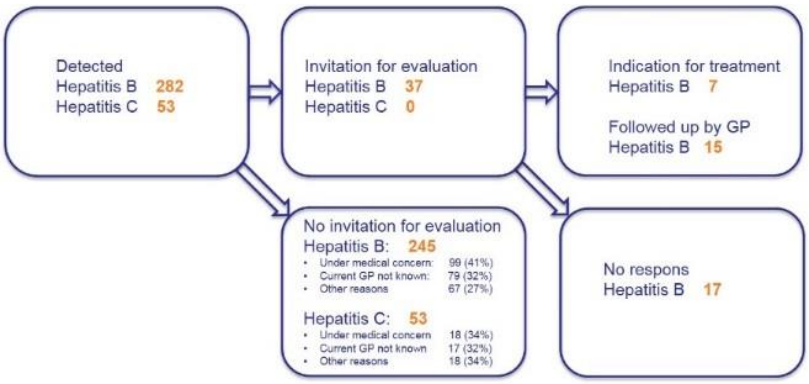


Figure 2: Outcomes of the evaluation of treatment indication of detected hepatitis B and C patients in Arnhem. GP general practitioner

## Methods

- Region: eastern part of the Netherlands
- Comparison:
  - Two laboratories: all positive HbsAg and anti-HCV reports in past 15 yrs
  - RPHS: all notified HBV and HCV patients in past 15 yrs
- GP's: evaluation of treatment indication of chronic HBV and HCV patients lost to follow up, and referral if necessary

## Conclusion

**Detection and evaluation of chronic hepatitis B and C patients in the region of Arnhem showed that these methods are effective in detecting patients who were lost to follow up. As detection by laboratory reports was far more effective than detection by regional public health service notification records, we recommend that detection of previously diagnosed chronic hepatitis B and C patients is performed by laboratories.**

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