

# Elimination Experiments in the (Canadian) Far East

*Case studies in building  
elimination strategies*

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# Disclosures

- **Industry:**
  - AbbVie
  - Gilead
  - Merck
  - BMS
- **Academic:**
  - Affiliation with Dalhousie University and Nova Scotia Health Authority
  - Blatant HCV virology/immunology lover
- **Advocacy:**
  - HCV and HIV advocacy groups

# Acknowledgements

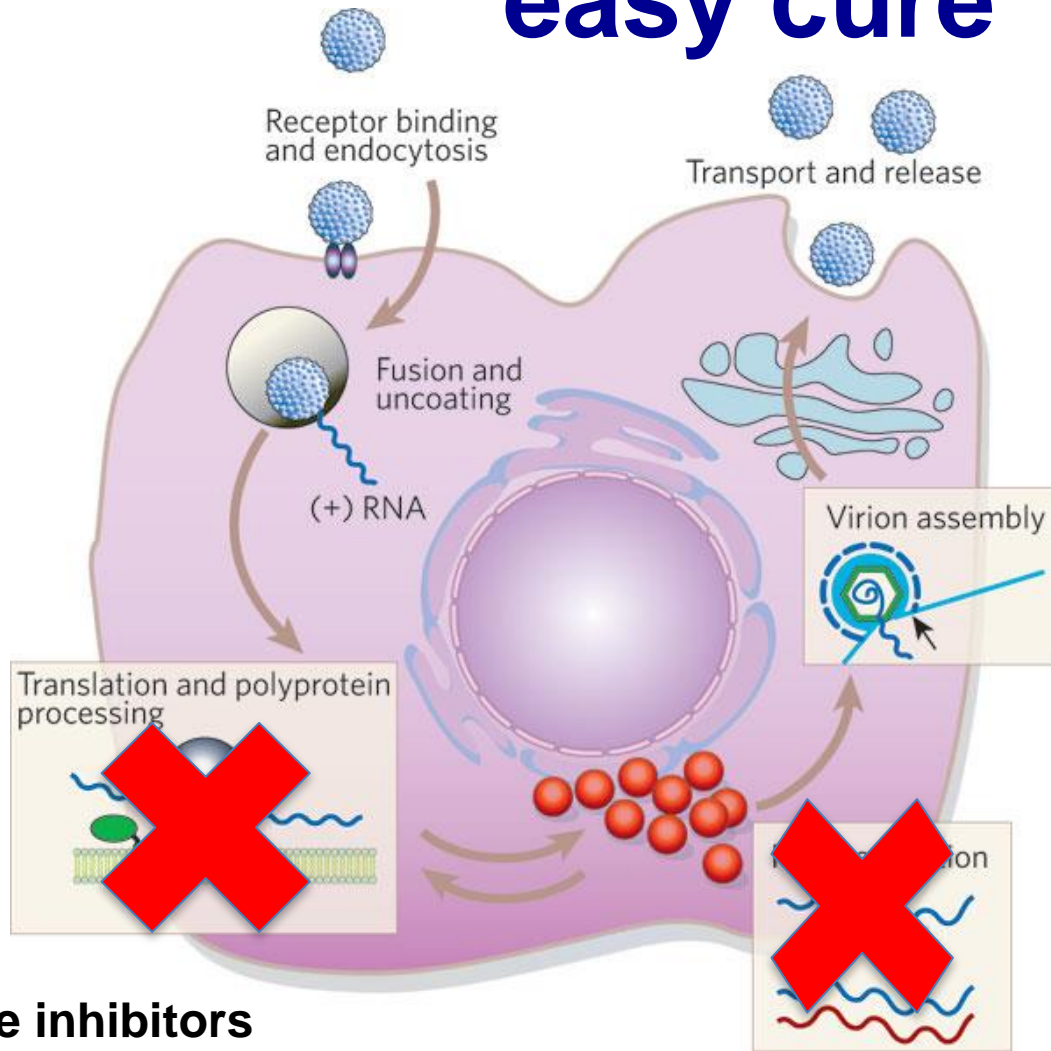
- **Nova Scotia Health Authority**
  - **Dr. Patrick McGrath**
  - Research Ethics Board
  - Department of Medicine
    - Dr. David Anderson
- **PEI Department of Health**
  - Minister Doug Currie
  - Deputy Minister Michael Mayne
- **Health PEI**
  - Research Ethics Board
- **PEI Department of Justice**
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  - Karen MacDonald
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# Objectives

- Present 2 provincial HCV elimination models at different implementation stages
- Review early results from the PEI elimination program
- Highlight critical nodes of success in implementation audience on how they compare between Atlantic and Saskatchewan.

# New HCV drugs: easy cure



## Protease inhibitors

eg. simeprevir, paritaprevir, grazoprevir

## NS5A inhibitors

eg. ledipasvir, ombitasvir,  
elbasvir, daclatasvir,  
velpatasvir

AND

## Polymerase inhibitors

eg. sofosbuvir, dasabuvir

# Ideal HCV treatment

Cure for (almost all) treated ✓

All oral ✓

No/low side effects ✓

Short ✓

Once daily ✓

Accessible ??



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# HCV elimination



# HCV elimination



***How to implement a  
Comprehensive Plan  
For Hepatitis C in Spain***  
Identifying the key success factors

## Project

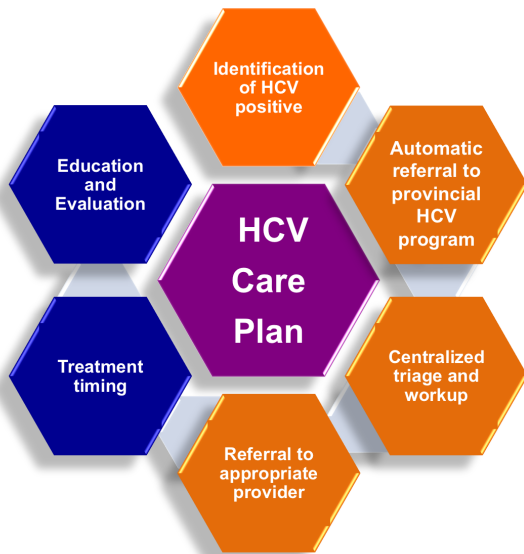
Enhanced HCV monitoring, primary care-based workforce development, rapid scale-up of public health policy action in HIV positive individuals within Australia.

# Challenges to broad role out



# GOAL OF Prince Edward Island HCV elimination strategy

## Phase 1



**Phase I:** centralized triage and referral, provincial **standardized** treatment algorithm, registry; assessment of patient, provider, and system outcomes

## Phase 2

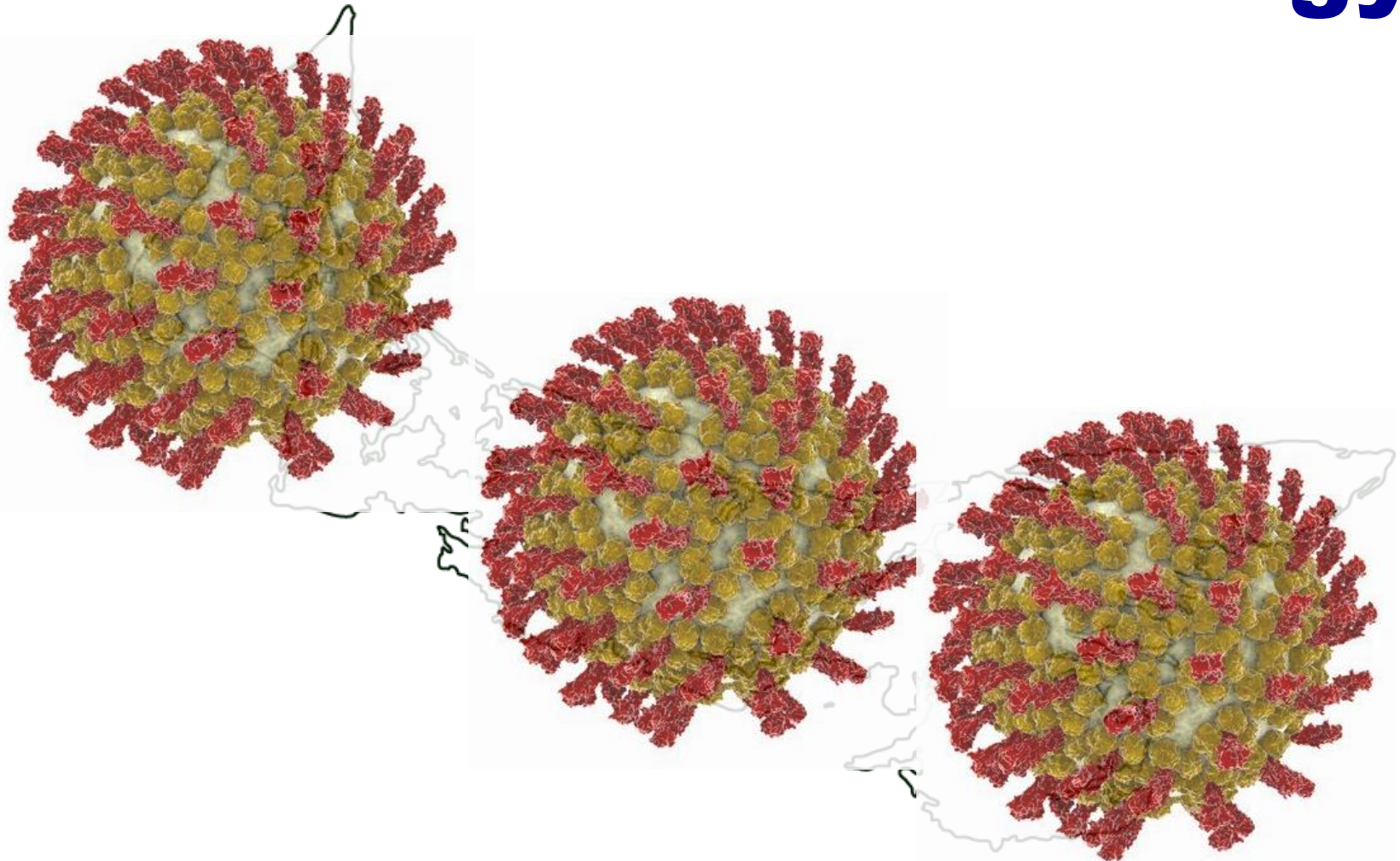
- Expanded providers
- Vulnerable population engagement
- Harm reduction
- Blood borne pathogens

## Phase 3

- Expanded providers
- Vulnerable population engagement
- Harm reduction
- Blood borne pathogens

**Phase III:** integrated assessment and model revision based on results in phase I and II

# **GOAL OF Prince Edward Island HCV elimination strategy**



# PEI model

## HARM REDUCTION



Correctional system

# TREATMENT SUPPORT, EVALUATION AND EDUCATION

## Science of cure research

On-treatment adherence support, advice to patient

Liver health and blood borne pathogen education to patient

Informed consent and enrollment in a provincial de-identified clinical database

Health systems outcome measurement and cost effectiveness analysis

Implementation science of elimination



# The first 9 months

**Initial  
Assessment  
N = 123**

Genotype	n (%)
1a	118 (48.8)
1b	16 (6.6)
1other	23 (9.5)
2	21 (8.7)
3	45 (18.6)
4	1 (0.4)
Unknown	1 (0.4)
Spontaneous clearance	17 (7.0)

Genotype	n (%)	Fibrosis Stage	n (%)
1a	87 (70.7)	F0-F1	59 (48.0)
1b	15 (12.2)	F2	15 (12.2)
1other	18 (14.6)	F3	17 (13.8)
3	2 (1.6)	F4	29 (23.6)
4	1 (0.8)	Unknown	3 (2.4)

225 with chronic HCV identified

# Objectives

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# The first 9 months

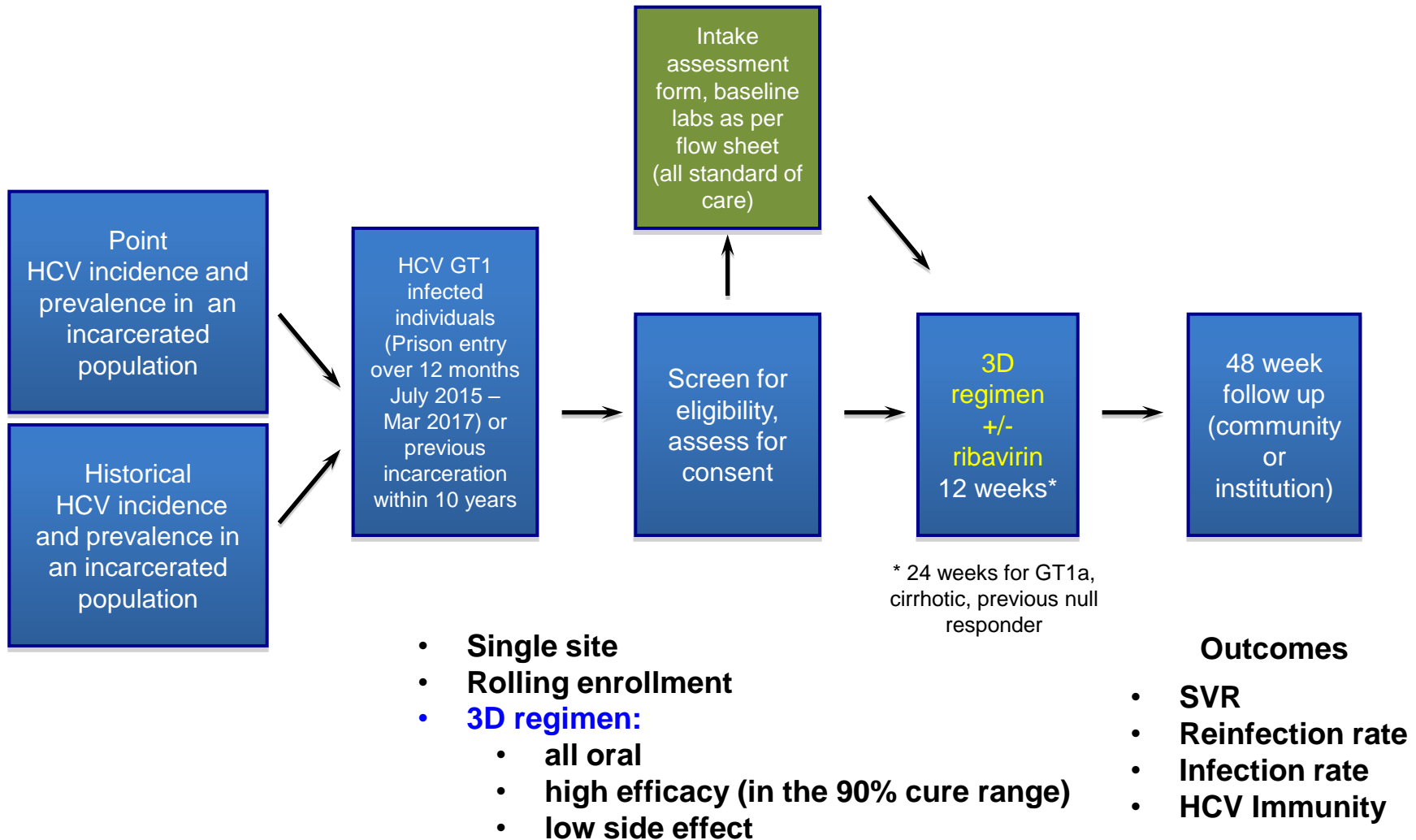
Outcome	n (%)
SVR12 (“cure”)	82 (97.6)
Lost to follow-up	1 (1.2)
Deceased	1 (1.2)

- **Highly effective treatment**
  - High SVR (“cure”) rates with no failures
- **Patient engagement in nurse-directed care program**
  - Only 1 patient lost to follow-up

## Patients not initiated on therapy (N = 30)

Reason	n (%)
Pending specialist consult	16 (53.3)
Active IVDU	4 (13.3)
Spontaneous clearance	2 (6.7)
Lack of drug coverage – G3	2 (6.7)
Moved out of province	2 (6.7)
Medical contraindication	2 (6.7)
Behavioural management issues	1 (3.3)
Incarcerated	1 (3.3)

# Treating high risk individuals: the HCV corrections study



# **Study quick facts: 12 months since start**

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- 72% of eligible offenders in the PCC were screened for HCV in July 2015 – July 2016
- 16% of screened offenders were HCV positive
- Major HCV risk factor in 23 / 27 individuals: IV drug use, past or present
- Over 10% of total enrollment achieved in 8 month then plateau
- 4 people currently on drug, 2 enrolled pending drug start

**Additional benefit: screening in study 7 / 18 individuals in need of HBV vaccination who were then vaccinated by PCC**

# **Study quick facts: 14 months since start**

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- 100% medication adherence in house
- 75% individuals HCV undetectable viral load at week 1
- 100% individuals HCV undetectable viral load at week 4
- 16 individuals in the community to finish treatment and follow up
- 10 people cured SVR12
- 4 people lost to followup

# REQUIRES

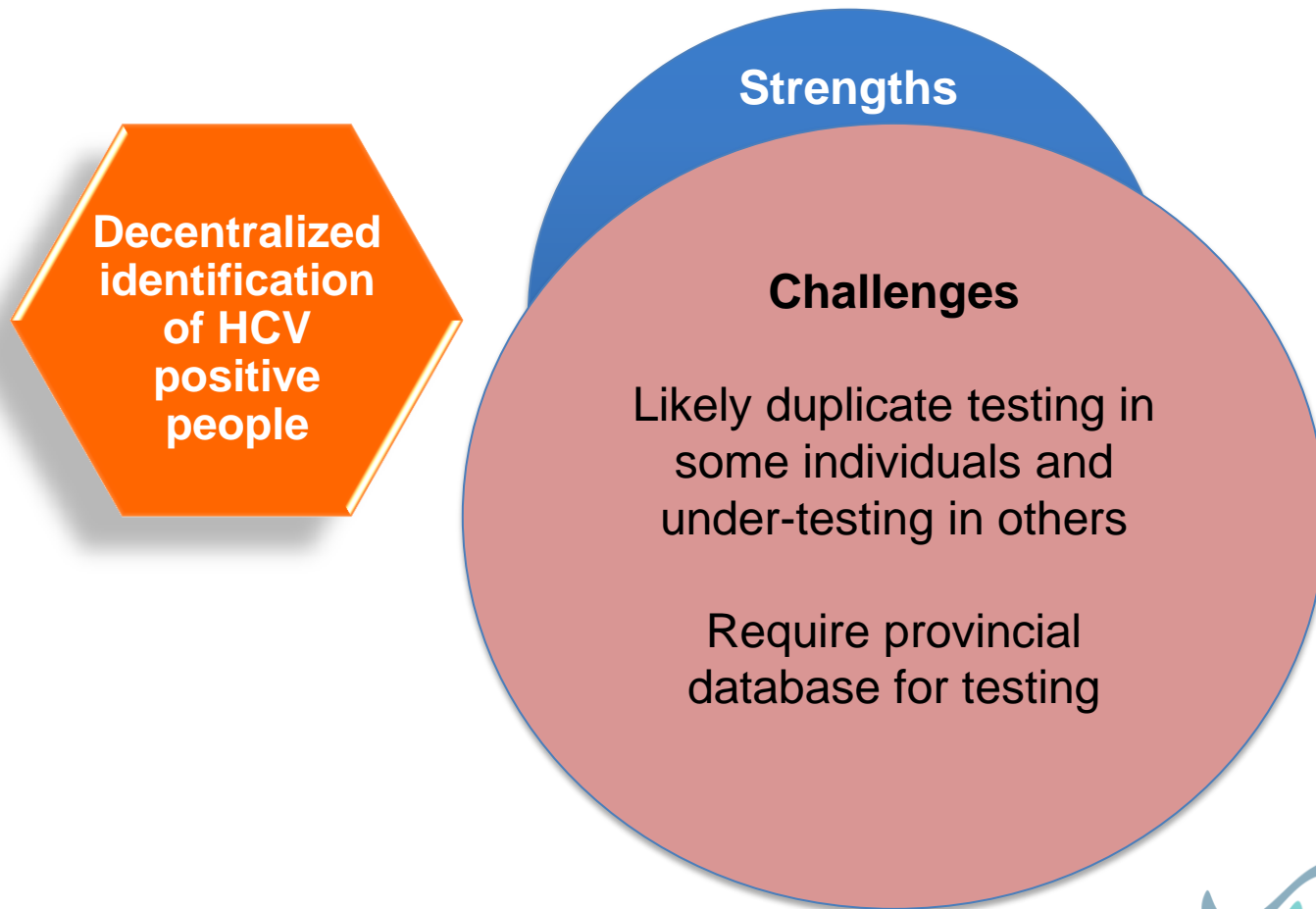
- **Registry** and health outcomes specialists
- Engaged providers
- Engaged communities
- Sustainable treatment **access** for **ALL HCV positive persons**
- **Innovative** partnerships for treatment and care procurement and delivery
- Commitment to **assessment and research**

**What about  
Nova Scotia?**

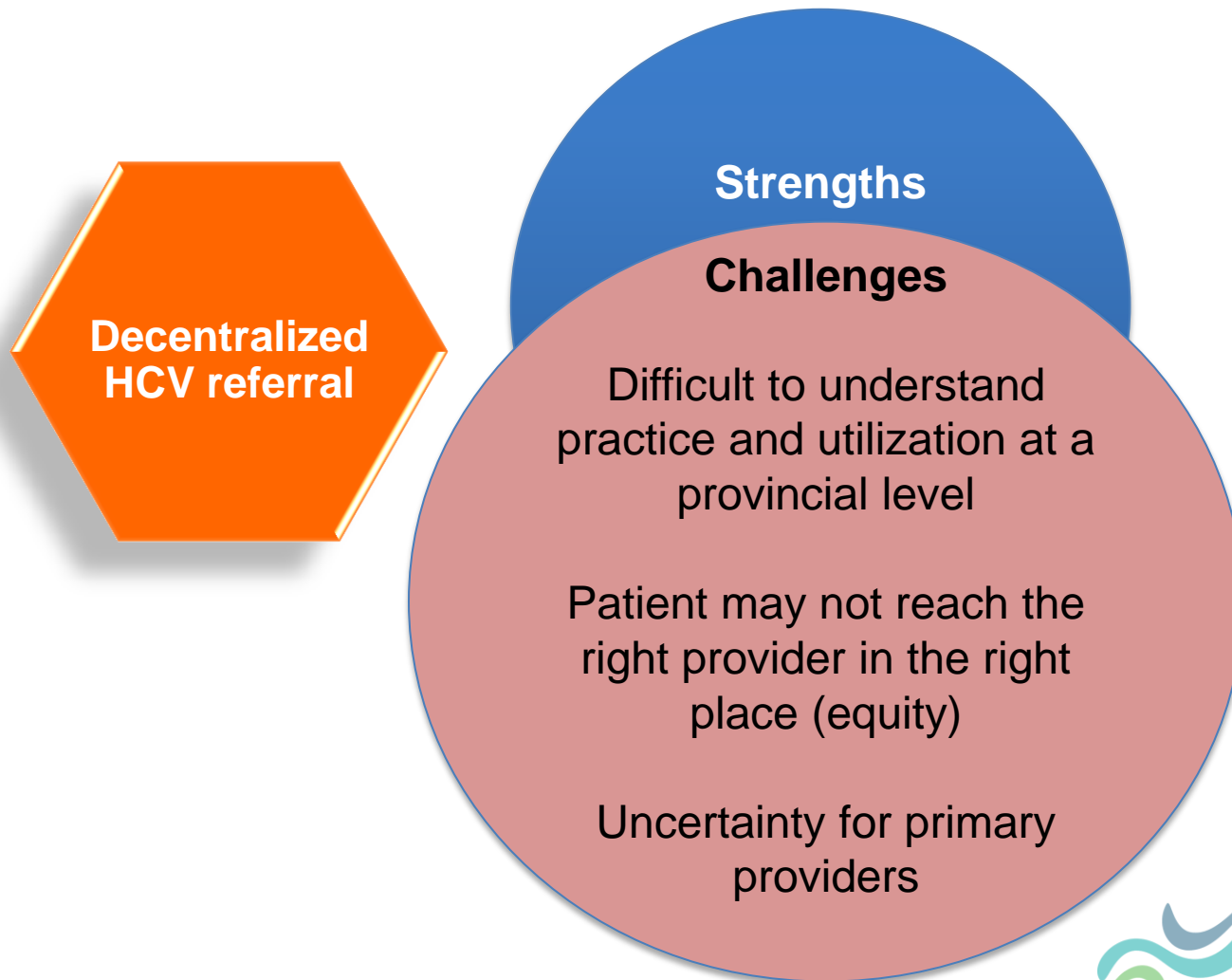


**How does HCV care work in  
Nova Scotia today?**

# Current Nova Scotia HCV related care



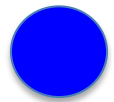
# Current Nova Scotia HCV related care



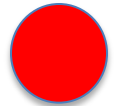
# The hepatitis C situation

- Excellent work within public health to identify and contact trace individuals newly positive for HCV
- Expert providers in multiple disciplines who want to work together
  - Good: expert treatment capacity exists
- Highly invested in:
  - HCV elimination and public health (prevention)
  - Excellent patient care
  - Equitable access to care
  - Judicious, evidence based use of new therapies
  - Assessing outcomes to guide future program decisions
  - Understanding the science of cure – research in a living lab

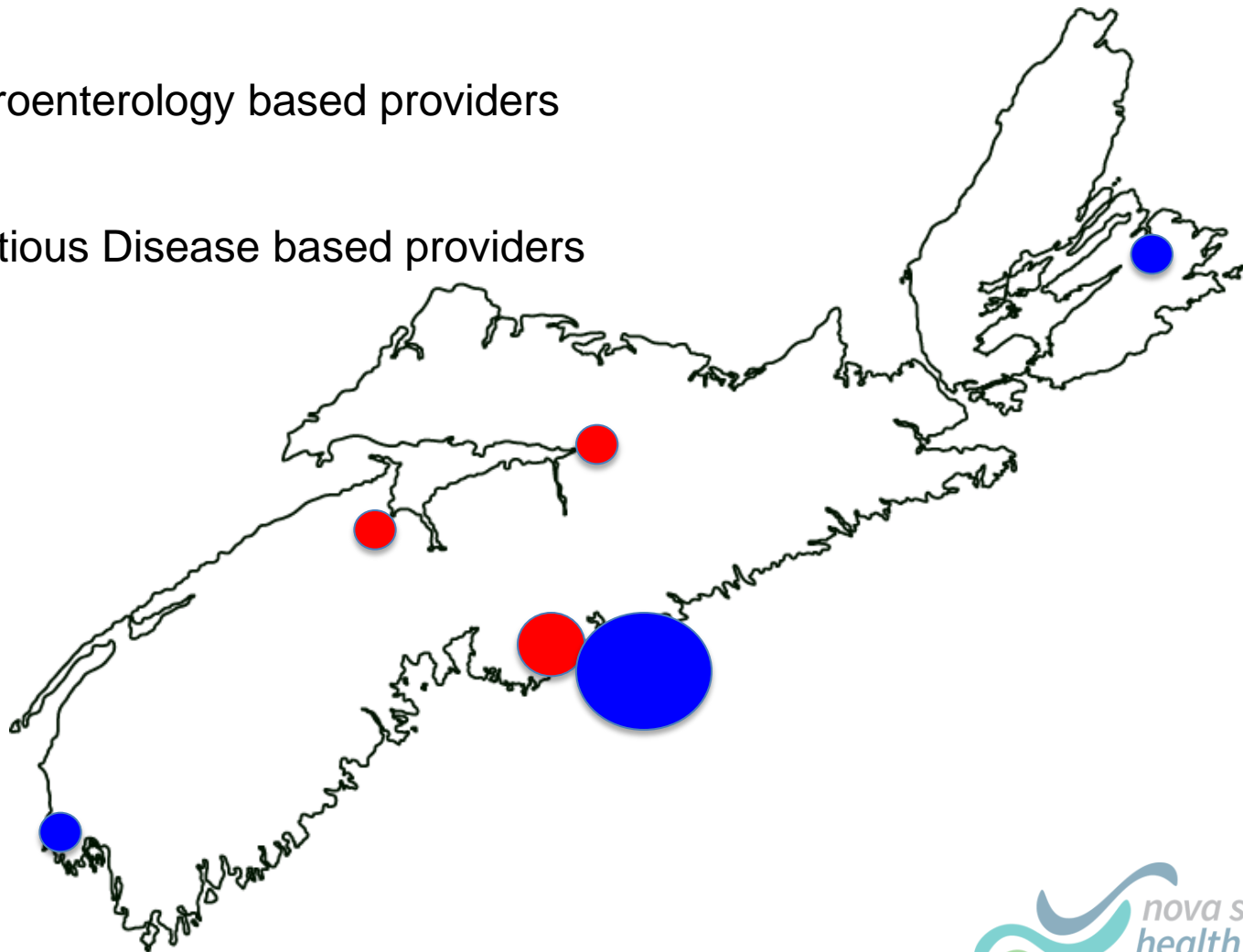
# Hepatitis C care providers Nova Scotia



Gastroenterology based providers



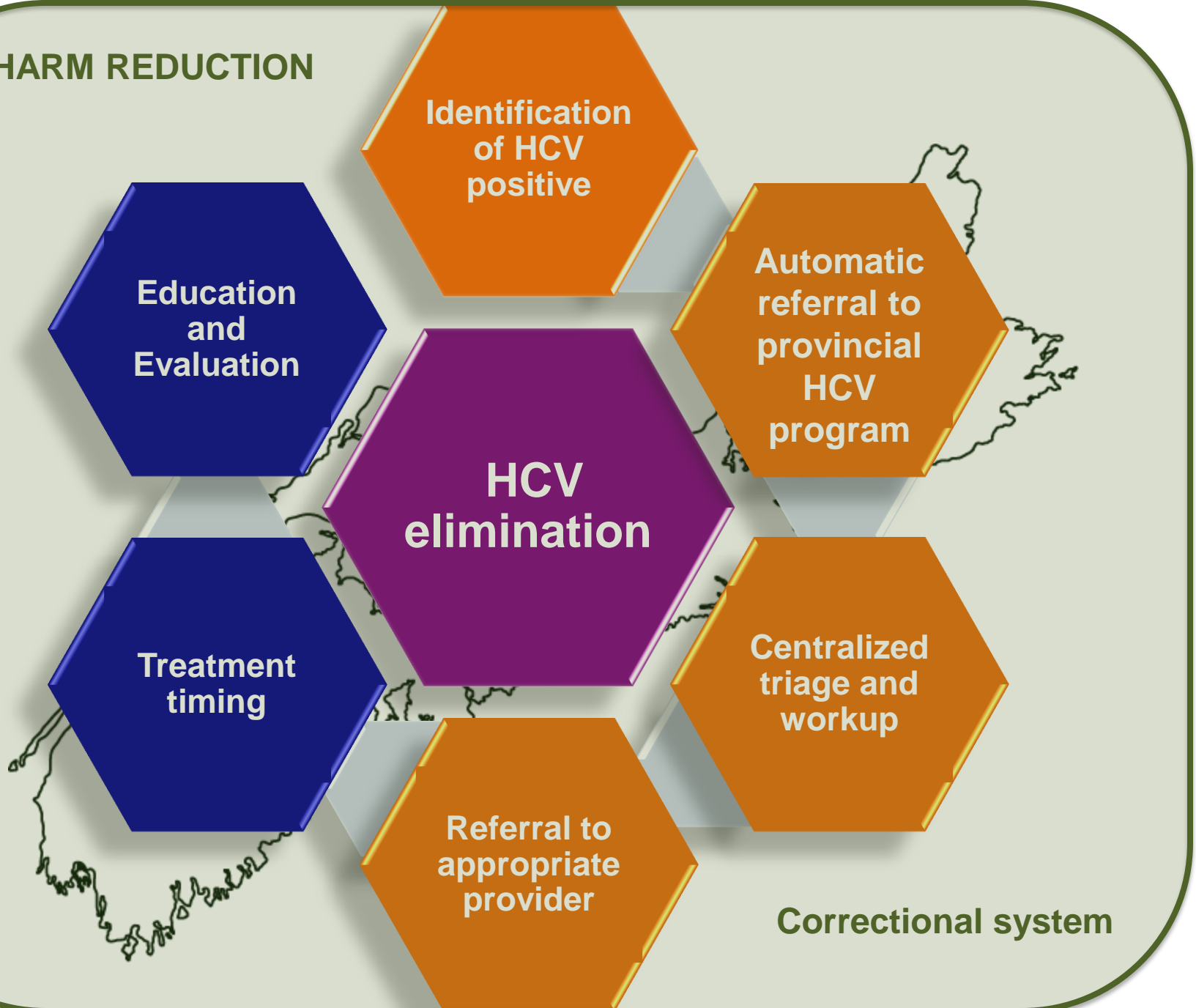
Infectious Disease based providers



# **Move to one health authority great opportunity**

**HCV  
elimination  
plan**

**HARM REDUCTION**



**HCV  
elimination**

**Education  
and  
Evaluation**

**Treatment  
timing**

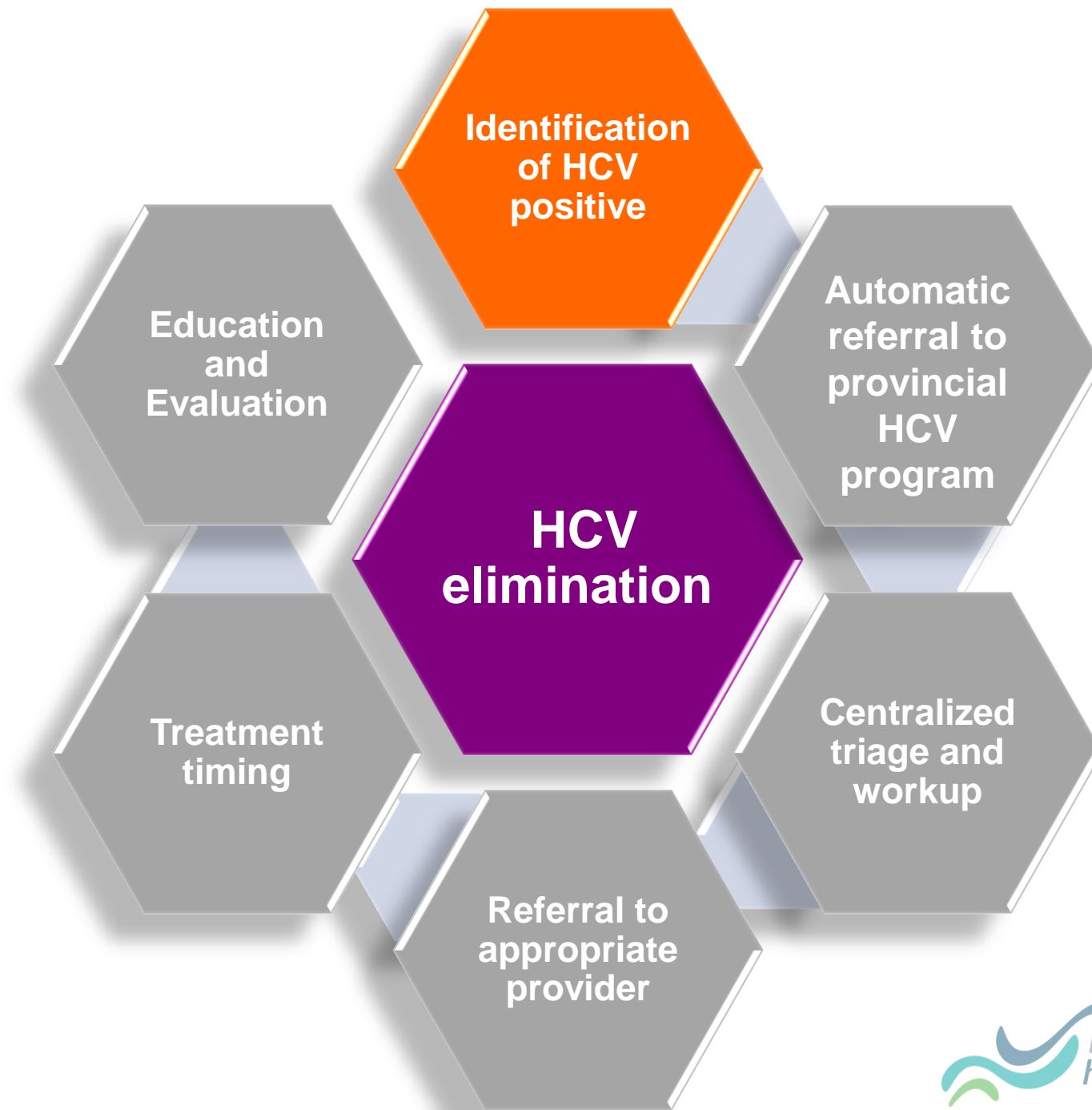
**Identification  
of HCV  
positive**

**Automatic  
referral to  
provincial  
HCV  
program**

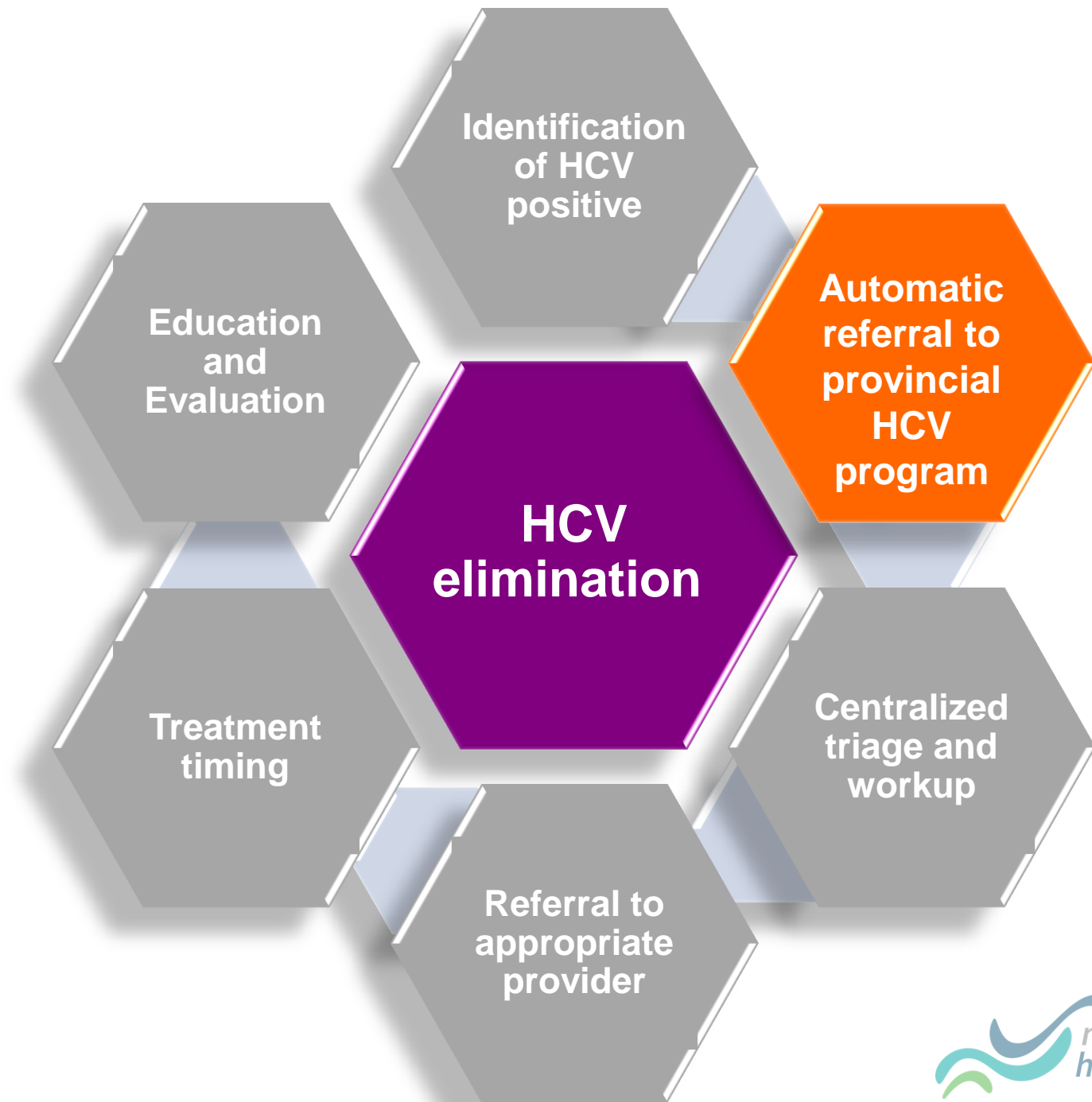
**Centralized  
triage and  
workup**

**Referral to  
appropriate  
provider**

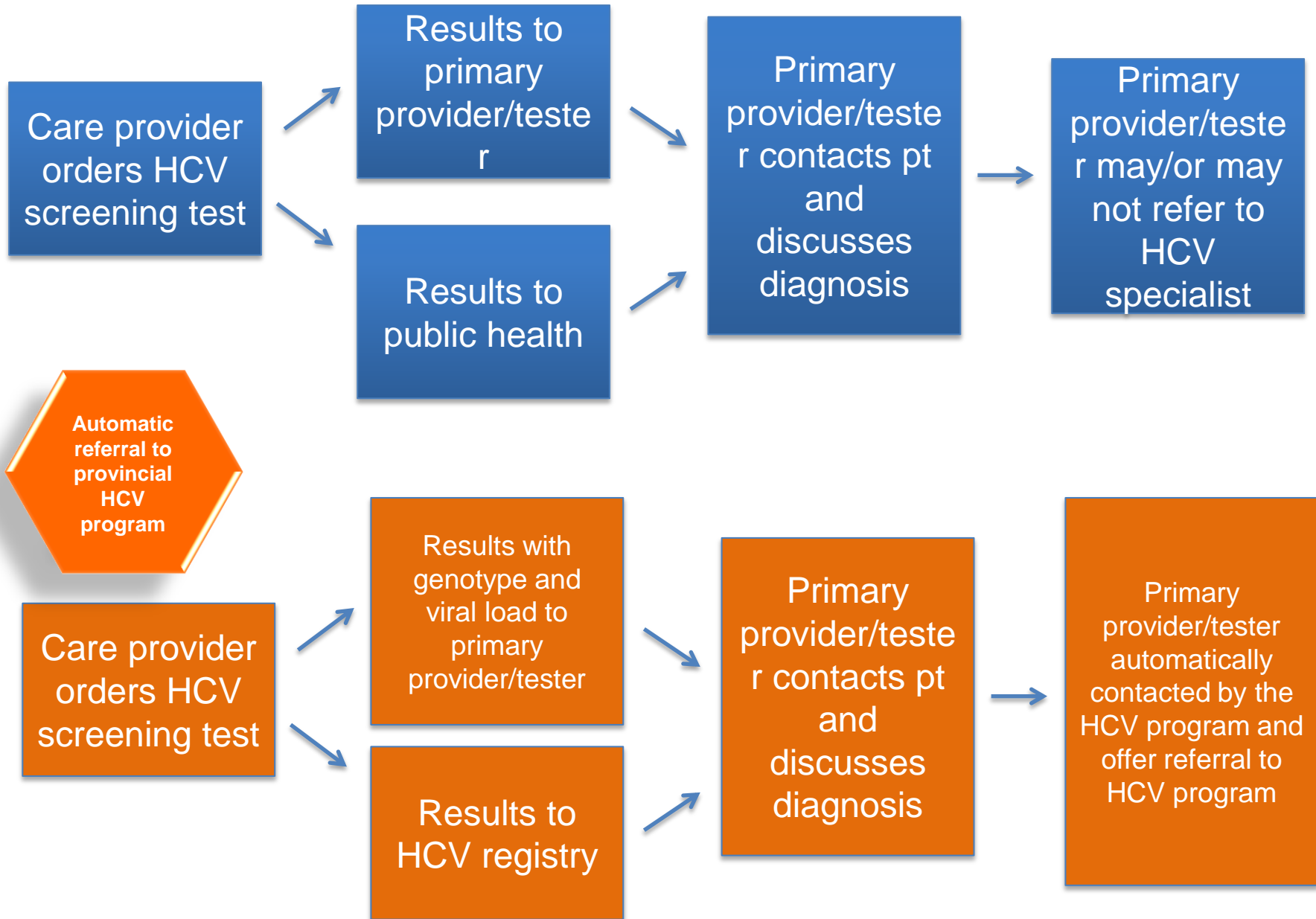
**Correctional system**

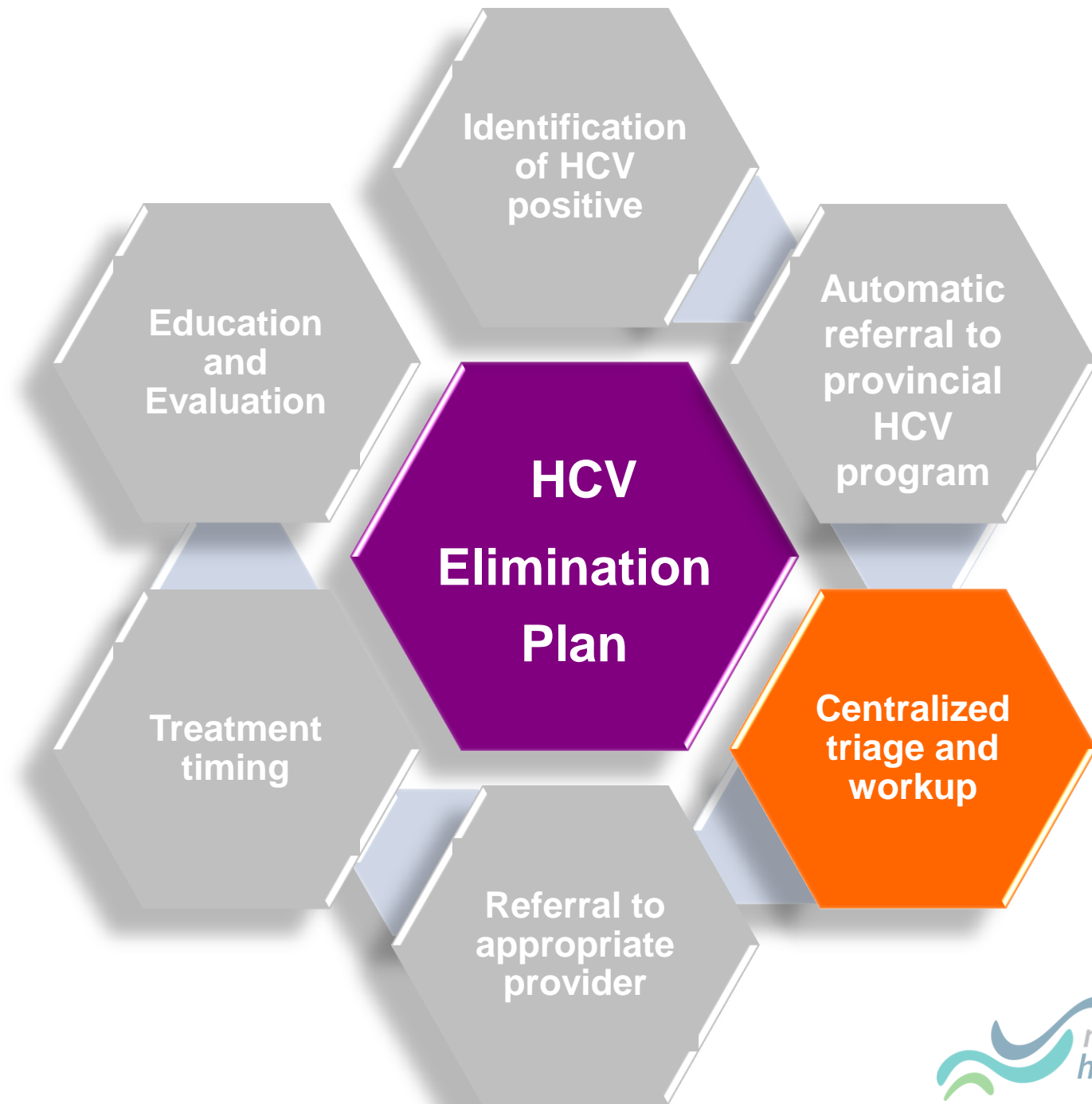






# Current model





## Current model

Multiple tertiary care team members in multiple departments do this simultaneously now

HCV confirmed  
genotype and viral load may / may not be known

Potentially delayed booking while waiting for further information

Potential for referral to wrong specialist

## New model

HCV confirmed  
Genotype and viral load known

Forward to HCV program

Send provincial form with additional testing required

All information received and entered in database

Triage completed  
Right patient  
Right referral  
Right time

Automatic reporting

Admin support or nursing

Nursing review

# Elimination: Phase 2a

Study Arms

**Current model of care**

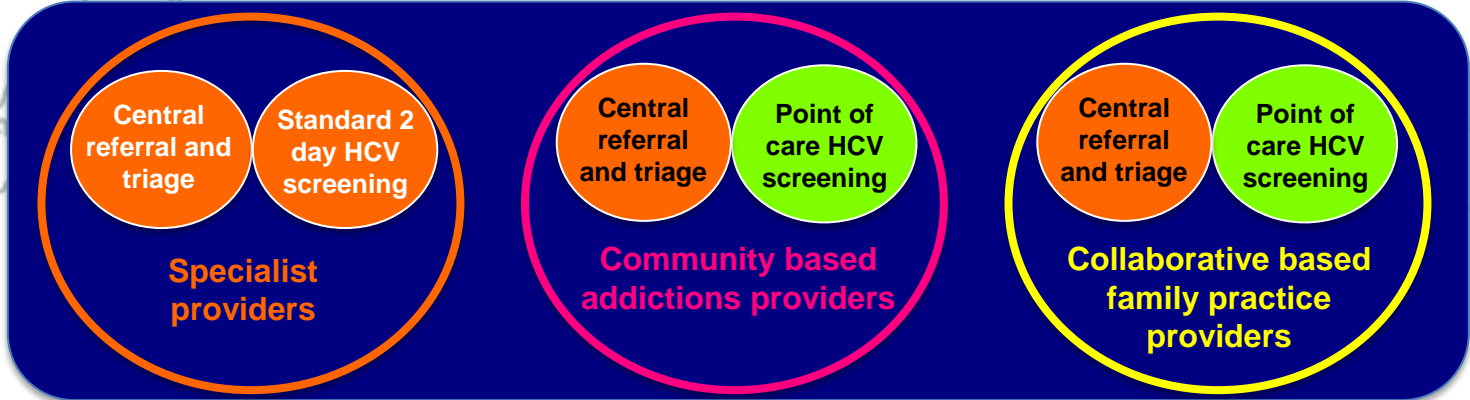
**INTERVENTION**

- Provider specific needs based HCV treatment curriculum
  - HCV expert mentorship
  - Provider feedback and revision

**Intervention Group 1**

**Intervention Group 2**

Provincial HCV treatment program



Central referral and triage  
Standard 2 day HCV screening  
**Specialist providers**

Central referral and triage  
Point of care HCV screening  
**Community based addictions providers**

Central referral and triage  
Point of care HCV screening  
**Collaborative based family practice providers**

## OUTCOMES

Study Outcomes

**PROVIDER**

- Satisfaction with intervention
- Pre and post knowledge
- Comfort with HCV treatment

**PATIENT**

- Cure
- Quality of life
- Work productivity

**Biomarker /Biomedical**

- Biomarker development to predict cure

**HEALTH SYSTEM**

- Time from triage to care
- Loss to follow up
- Total cost of treatment / pt
- Public health: identify infections

# Elimination: Phase 2b

Study Arms

Provincial HCV treatment program

Current model of care

Intervention Group 1

Intervention Group 2

**INTERVENTION**  
Contemporaneous HCV treatment in high risk HCV networks  
Group 1: Offenders  
Group 2: PWID together

Central referral and triage

Standard 2 day HCV screening

Specialist providers

Central referral and triage

Point of care HCV screening

Corrections based providers

Central referral and triage

Point of care HCV screening

Addictions based providers

## OUTCOMES

### PROVIDER

- Satisfaction with intervention
- Pre and post knowledge
- Comfort with HCV treatment

### PATIENT

- Cure
- Reinfection
- Quality of life
- Work productivity

### Biomarker /Biomedical

- Biomarker development to predict cure

### HEALTH SYSTEM

- Time from triage to care
- Loss to follow up
- Total cost of treatment / pt
- Public health: identify infections

Study Outcomes

# Elimination: Phase 2c

**INTERVENTION**  
High prevalence and incidence HCV populations  
Group 1: First nations in home community  
Group 2: First nations in urban areas

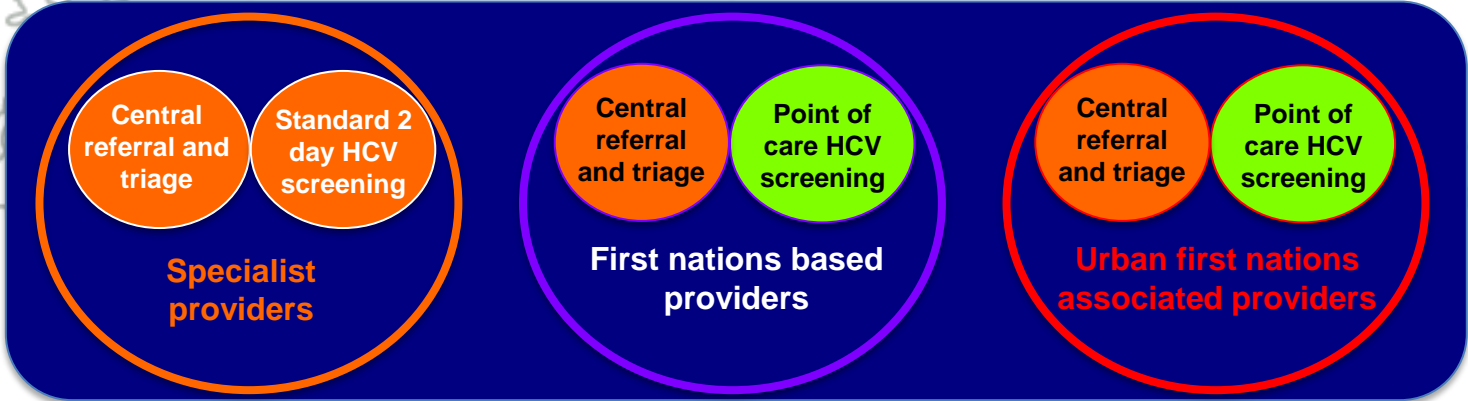
Study Arms

Current model of care

Intervention Group 1

Intervention Group 2

Provincial HCV treatment program



## OUTCOMES

Study Outcomes

**PROVIDER**

- Satisfaction with intervention
- Pre and post knowledge
- Comfort with HCV treatment

**PATIENT**

- Cure
- Reinfection
- Quality of life
- Work productivity

**Biomarker /Biomedical**

- Biomarker development to predict cure

**HEALTH SYSTEM**

- Time from triage to care
- Loss to follow up
- Total cost of treatment / pt
- Public health: identify infections

**Provincial  
person centric  
elimination focused  
HCV strategy**

- Optimizes patient care
- Enhances population health
- Sustainable use of health system resources



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# REQUIRES

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- Engaged providers
- Engaged communities
- Sustainable treatment **access** for **ALL HCV positive persons**
- **Innovative** partnerships for treatment and care procurement and delivery
- Commitment to **assessment and research**

# Take home points

- Collaborative, motivated, responsible providers aligned to build a centralized, provincial model of care that is population and public health oriented
- HCV strategies lend themselves to simultaneous incorporation with blood borne pathogen health needs
- Built in evaluation and research to monitor economic, patient, and care effects are key to sustainable program improvement



**NOHEP - A MOVEMENT TO ELIMINATE VIRAL HEPATITIS BY 2030. JOIN US.**

**JOIN US TO MAKE THE ELIMINATION OF VIRAL HEPATITIS  
OUR NEXT GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT**

**! GET INVOLVED**



**WORLD HEPATITIS DAY**



Every action is an action towards elimination of viral hepatitis

This year sees the first ever World Health Organization's Global Strategy for Viral Hepatitis, which sets a goal of eliminating viral hepatitis as a public health threat by 2030.

Let's join together on World Hepatitis Day (28 July) to make the elimination of viral hepatitis our next greatest achievement.

