## Research capsule

## Will a peer-led telehealth model of care significantly increase HCV treatment initiation?



<u>Participants</u>: 203 adults in rural Oregon (USA) who were HCV positive and who had injected drugs or recently used non-prescribed opioids.



<u>Intervention</u>: Peers helped with navigating insurance approvals, attending telemedicine appointments, medication delivery and storage, adherence support, and accessing needed social services (e.g. housing). A clinical team provided same-day telemedicine appointments and discussions with peers on patient concerns.



Comparator: Peer-assisted referral to local providers (enhanced usual care).

Peer Supported Telemedicine

**85%**initiated treatment
(RR = 6.7, 95% CI 4.0 to 11.3, p<0.001).

63% viral clearance (RR = 4.1, 95% CI 2.5 to 6.5, p < 0.001). **46%** treatment completion

**Enhanced Usual Care** 

13% initiated treatment

**16%** viral clearance

**9%** treatment completion

