

LIVING FACTSHEET: MANAGEMENT AND CARE OF PEOPLE WITH JAPANESE ENCEPHALITIS VIRUS (JEV) IN AUSTRALIA

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What we know about management and care of people with JEV

- As at 19 October 2022, there have been 42 human cases of JEV notified in Australia since 1 January 2021.
- There are no known effective specific treatments for patients with JEV. Care for patients with JEV is supportive and aims to reduce symptoms
- Most people infected with JEV have no or mild symptoms and can be managed with rest, fluids and paracetamol
- Initial symptoms of JEV often include fever, headache, and vomiting.
- In people who develop severe illness:
 - Symptoms may include neck stiffness, disorientation, tremors, seizures
 - Illness may lead to coma, paralysis, permanent neurological complications or death
 - Hospitalisation is required
- A small number of trials of potential treatments for JEV are underway
- JEV is a vaccine preventable disease, with two vaccines (Imojev and JEspect [Ixiaro]) currently registered for use in Australia

What we don't know about management and care of people with JEV

- Whether specific treatments might help in people with JEV

What the Taskforce is doing about management and care of people with JEV

- We are running monthly searches to identify emerging evidence to guide management and care of people with JEV
- As evidence becomes available to guide treatment decisions, we may produce evidence-based guidelines

Key References, Resources and Guidelines

Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care

- About: <https://www.health.gov.au/health-alerts/japanese-encephalitis-virus-jev/about>
- Outbreak information <https://www.health.gov.au/diseases/japanese-encephalitis>

US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- Information for Healthcare Providers
<https://www.cdc.gov/japaneseencephalitis/healthcareproviders/healthcareproviders-clinlabeval.html>