

ACCELERATING THE HEPATITIS C CARE CASCADE FOR PATIENTS WITH SUBSTANCE USE

Rienstra J¹, Schiller K¹, Battle R¹, Chantrill A¹, Iwasaki J¹

¹ Lummi Tribal Health Center

Background:

Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) has a disproportionate impact on the American Indian/Alaskan Native (AI/AN) population, particularly those with substance use disorders. Eighty percent of patients screened for HCV have current or historic substance use. This same population also suffers from housing insecurity, complex medical and mental health diagnosis, high rates of incarceration, and inconsistent transportation, requiring the development of an innovative screening and treatment strategy that accelerates the traditional HCV care cascade.

Description of model of care:

HCV screening is offered at our Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) and Syringe Service Program (SSP) ensuring access to care for highest risk patients. If a patient screens positive, the care cascade begins with same day HCV RNA reflex to genotype, Fibroscan and meeting with case managers. The case managers address barriers to care and make connections to social services. The case is then presented to project ECHO, and within two office visits the patient can start treatment. Our two case managers make phone calls, perform home visits, coordinate treatment with corrections facilities, provide transportation, and may coordinate medication co-administration at the OTP.

Effectiveness:

1,861 of 5,775 (32%) adults have been screened, including 188 of 331 (57%) OTP patients. 151 patient have chronic HCV, of which 77 (51%) have been treated and achieved sustained virologic response. Since incorporating Fibroscan in 2018, 12 of 30 (40%) HCV evaluated patients were ready to treat after one visit. The average patient requires 10 separate interventions from our case managers to complete treatment. Aligning treatment programs to each patient's unique and evolving lifestyle has resulted in 100% treatment success.

Conclusion:

With multidisciplinary collaboration, onsite Fibroscan, patient engagement in developing care delivery plans, and fostering a therapeutic environment for those with addiction, HCV elimination becomes a realistic possibility at our clinic by 2020.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

None.