

END HEP-C-NM: A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TOWARDS HEPATITIS C ELIMINATION IN A RESOURCE SCARCE ENVIRONMENT

Sedillo MS¹, Thornton K², Lim J¹, Selvage, WD³, Zurlo D⁴, Swatek J⁴, Whyte A⁵, Arora S¹, Page K⁶ on behalf of the *END hepC-NM* Collaborative.

¹Project ECHO, School of Medicine, University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center, Albuquerque, New Mexico, United States

²Division of Infectious Diseases, Department of Internal Medicine, University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center, Albuquerque, New Mexico, United States

³New Mexico Department of Health, Public Health Division, Infectious Disease Bureau, Hepatitis and Harm Reduction Program, Santa Fe, New Mexico

⁴Health Services Bureau, New Mexico Corrections Department, Santa Fe, New Mexico, United States

⁵STD, HIV/AIDS Prevention Program, Albuquerque Area Indian Health Board, Albuquerque, New Mexico, United States

⁶Division of Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Preventive Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico, United States

Background:

In 2017 the U.S. National Academy of Medicine developed goals for elimination of hepatitis C virus (HCV) as a public health threat with recommended actions by 2030, including a 90% reduction in new cases and a 65% mortality reduction. Despite enthusiasm for the feasibility of these goals, few resources have been allocated nationally to achieve them. The state of New Mexico (NM), which has a disproportionate burden of HCV and associated liver disease, established a HCV Elimination Collaborative “*END hepC-NM*” in 2017, to collectively plan and initiate efforts toward state-level HCV elimination.

Approach:

END hepC-NM includes multiple stakeholders: NM Department of Health, University of NM, Project ECHO®, Department of Corrections, Albuquerque Area Southwest Tribal Epidemiology Center, Tri-Core Laboratories, Centennial Care (representing 4 managed care organizations), patients, and advocacy groups. We have agreed to adopt an incremental approach to HCV elimination, focused on our Medicaid population which is inclusive of multiple risk groups and represents about half of the NM population. Strategic planning incorporates a shared leadership approach and subgroups inform the whole. A shared mission is to leverage existing resources to end HCV transmission and to identify and cure people with HCV in NM.

Outcome:

The *END hepC-NM* project is finalizing the strategic plan with both short term (5-year) and long terms (2030) goals. 73 members from 31 unique organizations participate, including in the development of the strategic plan. Collaborative efforts in NM have resulted in liberal HCV treatment guidelines with no restrictions by disease stage, provider type, or abstinence.

Conclusion:

The strategic plan will be finalized June 2018. Year one of the *END hepC-NM* elimination project will begin July 1, 2018. The collaborative will seek resources to further the plan, and reach targeted HCV elimination goals by 2030.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

None.