IN A NEEDLE AND SYRINGE EXCHANGE PROGRAM

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Overview

- Background PBHRWA
- The Hepatitis C Treatment Program
- Implementations
- Summary
HCV TREATMENT IN A NEEDLE AND SYRINGE EXCHANGE PROGRAM

PBHRWA

2 fixed sites in Perth and Bunbury

NSEP
- Needle and syringe one for one exchange program – approx 12,000 client interactions yearly
- Provides advocacy & support for people on pharmacotherapies health promotion and information, resources and resource production
- Consultation on policy, consumer issues, NSEP etc
- Training and education for the broader AOD, Health, Mental Health, Community Welfare and other services
OUTREACH SERVICES – METRO AND SOUTHWEST

- Ace program – outreach to Aboriginal clients including home visits
- Youth program – outreach to males and females aged 16-25
- Outreach to the general population
- Safe Disposal Program
- Overdose Prevention and Management Project
- Peer Administered Naloxone program

PBHRWA
2 fixed sites in Perth and Bunbury
PBHRWA Low Threshold Health Clinic

STI’s and Sexual and Reproductive Health

- STI education, testing, and treatment
- Contraceptive advice and scripts for the pill, Implanon insertion and removal
- Pap Smears

BBV’s

- BBV testing
- HCV treatment
- Advanced liver disease – HCC screening

General

- Wound dressings
- Treatment for infections – cellulitis, UTIs, URTIs
- Naloxone prescribing
- Vaccinations
- General Health care
How we went about it

Collaborative study between UWA and PBHRWA
Retrospective audit
Prospective study of patients undergoing hepatitis C treatment
About

Retrospective Audit

80% consumers self-reported a previous psychiatric history
54% who inject drugs use amphetamines
25% of the sample was hepatitis C antibody positive

Prospective Study

20 patients have undertaken treatment
10 have completed and achieved an SVR
## Demographic Characteristics of the Clinical Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>N=20</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mean age</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug Use</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past drug history</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current amphetamine use</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current heroin use</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current combined heroin/amphetamine</td>
<td>2</td>
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</table>
Barriers

1. How to recruit
2. Poor venous access
3. Minimal support
4. Follow up
5. Re-infection issues
6. Patient complexity
Addressing the barriers

1. Peer based education
   - Peers and NSEP workers were educated about HCV
   - NSEP workers triage clients –
     - Brief interventions – substance related problems
   - Health issues
   - Education

2. Case management worker
   - Outreach
   - Transports clients to and from appointments
   - Provide support during the hepatitis C treatment program – weekly phone calls
   - Another person to reinforce reinfection issues
   - Reminds clients of their appointments

3. NP Prescribing
   One stop shop
   - Reduce hospital admissions

4. Providing education to Health professionals
What the consumer wants...

- More targeted education
- Patient incentives
- User friendly services – feel safe
- One stop shop approach
Be more flexible in how we deliver care
Consider the complex client
Identify services engaged with people who use drugs
Services at the forefront and engaged with people who use drugs should be enabled to access these clients
Harm Reduction also benefits the whole community, as well as respecting people’s choices and enhancing our ability to have more control over our health.

Between 2000 and 2009, the Australian Government spent $243 million on Needle and Syringe Programs, this prevented an estimated 32,000 HIV and 97,000 hep C infections which saved $1.2 billion in direct healthcare costs. If patient costs and productivity gains/losses are included, the community saved $5.8 billion.

For every $1 invested in NSPs, $27 was returned to Australian tax payers.

1 fitpack = $100 saving!

HIV prevalence among people who use drugs:
- 12% CHINA
- 16% USA
- 37% RUSSIA
- 1% AUSTRIA
Summary.