A Path to Cure for Hepatitis C: Linkage to and Engagement in Care for Alaska Native/American Indian Persons

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Conflicts of Interest

• None
Common challenges faced when evaluating a person for treatment

- Until recently, medication side effects largely deterred eligibility and participation in treatment and completing treatment

- Currently the cost of medications present a challenge for obtaining treatment

- Goal: To engage patients in care to ensure success in treatment
• In Oct 2013 we began a Strategic Initiative obtained from ANTHC with the objective of treating more persons chronically infected with HCV.

• This SI allowed us to hire an additional Nurse Practitioner and Registered Nurse.
• Who we are:
  • 2 physicians
  • 2 nurse practitioners
  • 7 registered nurses/research nurses
  • 1 assistant case manager
What we do:

- Provide consultation and specialty care services for Alaska Native/American Indian persons living throughout the state of Alaska who have various liver diseases

- Main clinic services are provided Monday to Friday at the Alaska Native Health Campus

- 13 field clinics at multiple sites throughout the state annually
SCREENING
Ongoing identification of new HCV

PCP

ANTHC LDHP

Acute HCV

Primary Patient Engagement

Chronic HCV

Linkage to Care / Treatment
Chronic HCV Linkage to Care / Treatment

Limiting Factors:
- Clinic Capacity
- Provider / Nurse Staffing
- Treatments Available (IFN v. DAA)
- Increasing Population Size

Resulting Factors:
- Increased Clinic Capacity
- Additional Provider/Nurse Staffing
- Better Medications Available
- Decreased Bottleneck

ANTHC Board of Directors Strategic Initiative
Chronic HCV 

Linkage to Care / Treatment 

PRE-TX APPOINTMENT 

Treatment Nurse 

TREATMENT START 

ALASKA NATIVE TRIBAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM 
LIVER DISEASE & HEPATITIS PROGRAM
Treatment Nurse & Patient Engagement Through:
- Contact & Coordinating Appointments
- Education about Drug Interactions
- Patient Commitment
- Attaining Cost Coverage
- Encouragement & Follow Up
Linkage to and Engagement in Care: Number Treated

- Interferon-Based Treatments 1992-2013: 189
- DAA Treatments 2014-present: 569
Linkage to and Engagement in Care: Discontinuation & SVR Rates

Interferon-Based Treatment 1992-2013
DAA Treatments 2014-present
U.S. National Statistics
Linkage to and Engagement in Care: Lessons Learned

• Having an additional provider (NP) on staff to focus primarily on treatment increased patient access by one third (33%)

• Dedicating an RN has improved treatment access by engaging the patient with care and treatment
Acknowledgements

• The Liver Disease & Hepatitis Program would like to thank our patients for allowing us to provide care for them and for engaging with us in their treatment.

• We would also like to thank the ANTHC Board of Directors for the Strategic Initiative which allowed us to accomplish these goals with our population to achieve our vision that Alaska Native people are the healthiest people in the world.