

Poster Abstract – AKPhA 2020

Title:

Expanding HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis care delivery through assessing knowledge, attitudes, and barriers from providers, nurse case managers, and pharmacists within the Nuka System of Care

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Purpose:

HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) is utilized to prevent HIV transmission and ultimately reduce new infection rates. Despite available guidelines regarding PrEP management, opportunities exist for pharmacists integrated within primary care to support provider care teams in PrEP education, initiation, and management. This project details a pharmacist-led initiative to assist primary care teams with PrEP initiation and monitoring as part of an interdisciplinary primary care team with the goal of increasing PrEP access and expanding care delivery.

Methods:

This quality improvement project outlines the proposed opportunities for expanding PrEP access and management through increasing pharmacy involvement within primary care. Descriptive data will include: assessment of current processes, development of a workflow, identification of eligible candidates for PrEP, initiation and management of PrEP therapy including counseling, lab monitoring, and follow-up, third-party billing procedures and reimbursement. In order to determine prescribing barriers and educational needs, we plan to disseminate a survey to assess knowledge and awareness, experience and attitudes throughout SCF to providers, nurse case managers, and pharmacists regarding PrEP. No protected health information will be obtained from the survey. Information collected in the survey will contain only self-reported views and limited categorical information. Survey information will not be linked to respondent personal information. Participation will be voluntary, and prior to survey dissemination, all appropriate human protections and tribal permissions will be obtained. Results will be analyzed using descriptive statistics.

Results:

All results are presented in graph format on the poster and further explained in the discussion section below.

Discussion:

Despite available guidelines regarding PrEP management and the availability of treatment such as Truvada® (emtricitabine/tenofovir) since 2012, HIV is still a sensitive topic to health care professionals and the general population alike. Although this may be the case nationwide, the results of this survey indicated that providers, nurse case managers, and pharmacists alike were found to be very comfortable discussing PrEP among other sensitive topics with customer-owners. In addition, the majority of respondents answered educational survey questions correctly.

- Assessment/Lab Monitoring
 - 95% of respondents correctly selected that taking PrEP regularly for ~20 days can reduce HIV transmission up to 90%. In addition, 96% of respondents correctly selected renal function labs should be assessed at least every 6 months while on PrEP.
 - However, only 29% of respondents correctly selected that customers should be tested for HIV annually at minimum. The correct answer is at least every 3 months.
- Barriers and Resource Utilization for PrEP Initiation and Management
 - Appointment time constraints (34%) and interruption of workflow (26%) were the two most commonly faced barriers when obtaining sexual health histories over the past year.
 - The integrated pharmacist (53%) and the CDC PrEP guidelines (50%) were the two most utilized resources when providing HIV risk reduction and PrEP education.
 - Conversely, majority of respondents rarely or never utilized the following resources for PrEP initiation and management: EIS/Infectious Disease team (78%), IV PrEP Pharmacy Minute (75%), and the HIV PrEP Ambulatory Care PowerPlan (65%).
- Attitudes Regarding PrEP Initiation and Management
 - Majority of respondents felt comfortable discussing PrEP with customer-owners (75%) and monitoring customer-owners on PrEP (74%).
 - Most respondents were also interested in learning more about PrEP given educational materials or offered a CE course (91%).
 - Respondents also agreed with increasing pharmacist involvement with PrEP initiation and management (80%).
 - Respondents addressed concerns including lack of education/knowledge/training, lack of comfort and awareness of PrEP therapy, infrequency of prescribing PrEP therapy, customer-owners either lost to follow up and non-adherence to therapy.