Curing Hepatitis C with CHARM: A patient navigation model for HCV care integration into public health clinics in a predominantly African American Community

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Setting

- Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) Sexual Health Clinics
  - 2 Urban clinics
  - 15,000 patient visits a year
  - Staffed by NPs and PAs under supervision of an MD
  - Provide STD/HIV testing and treatment, hepatitis immunization
  - Major source of healthcare for surrounding medically underserved African American communities
Local Health Department HCV Testing LTC and treatment

• Patient navigation for HCV testing and LTC
  – provided initial information about HCV testing and possible results
  – performed HCV rapid test
  – discussed availability of oral treatments which cure HCV infection
  – offered linkage to care services
  – confirmed contact information
  – insurance evaluation and navigation as needed
  – reminders to attend HCV evaluation and treatment appointments
  – community outreach
• City wide HCV linkage to care services

Initial HCV testing and linkage to care program

- All STD clinic patients offered rapid HCV testing June 2013-April 2014, follow up RNA for + rapid HCV Ab test
  - 2681 rapid HCV tests (90% black, 62% male, 3% with HIV)
  - HCV antibody prevalence overall
    - 189/2681 (7%)
    - 185 (98%) received follow up HCV RNA

Steps of HCV continuum

- Chronic HCV 100
- Diagnosed & Aware 99
- Initial HCV evaluation at BCHD 85
- Attended HCV specialty appointment 52
- Prescribed HCV medication 24

N=155  N=154  N=138  N=81  N=37
# Hepatitis Testing and Treatment in BCHD: Baseline Characteristics and Outcomes 2015-2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>n (%)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>560 (100.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Black/African American</td>
<td>451 (80.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• White/other</td>
<td>109 (19.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, years</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 20‒39/40‒59</td>
<td>76 (13.6)/343 (61.3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• ≥60</td>
<td>141 (25.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male/Female</td>
<td>361 (64.5)/199 (35.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance status</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Medicaid/Medicare</td>
<td>367 (65.5)/70 (12.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Private/Unknown</td>
<td>72 (12.9)/51 (9.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illicit substance use in prior 12 months</td>
<td>109 (19.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV coinfection</td>
<td>45 (8.0)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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- Substance use 25/28 (89%)
- No substance use 174/199 (87%)

Fibrosis and other restrictions to HCV treatment coverage remain a barrier to HCV treatment.

Critical Components for success

• Working to integrate patient navigator role and activities into routine clinic flow

• Providing training to peer navigator
  – Basic understanding of HCV
  – Interpretation of HCV test results
  – Excitement about HCV cure

• Patient navigator characteristics
  – Culturally Competent
  – Good communication skills
  – Demonstrate care
Thank you!
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