OPTICS. OBSERVING PREP'S TRANSITION INTO THE COMMUNITY SETTING, WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE A YEAR ON?

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Background: Kirketon Road Centre (KRC) is a targeted primary health service that provides care to marginalised populations in Kings Cross, Sydney. From 2016 KRC provided HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to 252 individuals prior to PBS listing in April 2018. We aimed to evaluate the ongoing care of clients who started PrEP at KRC and transitioned to GP care in the community.

Methods: A telephone survey of participants was conducted examining the following; (I) Had patients transitioned to a GP? (II) Were patients still using PrEP? (III) Did patients need PrEP? (IV) Relevant safety monitoring. Patients who didn't successfully transition were asked to detail barriers encountered.

Results: 132 (50.9%) participants responded. 85 (64.4%) patients had continued PrEP, of those 65 (76.4%) transitioned to GP prescribers and 18 (21.2%) patients continued PrEP under the care of sexual health services. 83.3% of the patients under sexual health services care were ineligible for Medicare and reported this as the predominant barrier to transitioning to GPs. 15 (35.6%) patients who ceased PrEP reported still requiring PrEP, describing numerous barriers to continued access: (1) Difficulty locating prescribers outside metro areas; (2) Unaware of local prescribers after leaving Sydney; (3) Difficulty seeing preferred GPs familiar with Prep; (4) Feeling of judgment when requesting PrEP; (5) Shame in asking GPs for Prep; (6) Financial barriers to GP care.

Conclusion: Post PBS listing most patients continued PrEP and had successfully transitioned to GP care. Nevertheless a significant percentage of patients did not successfully transition because of a variety of barriers. This demonstrates that sexual health services need to better facilitate access to appropriate GP care when transitioning patients to the community. Also, under Australia's Medicare system, sexual health services continue to play a role in prescribing PrEP as a "safety net" for certain populations.

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