

AN INNOVATIVE LONG-ACTING INJECTABLE HIV CLINIC: A MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH TO HIV CARE IN GENERAL PRACTICE

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Background/Purpose:

Long-acting injectables for HIV is an emerging and exciting treatment area, with many benefits for patients; through removing the daily need for oral antiretroviral therapy. Since 2023, View St Medical, a general practice in Perth WA, has set up a long-acting injectable clinic for HIV treatment. The clinic administers Cabenuva (Cabotegravir/Rilpivirine) injections to patients every two months, providing a convenient, accessible and clinically important service to our patients to reduce the barriers to accessing long acting injectable treatment. The service deliver plan is to expand to facilitate after hours access to patients of the local public health services and S100 GP's with smaller caseloads who do not have the resources or caseload to set up their own long acting injectable service and to liaise with other providers, providing the same service in a collaborative network to facilitate patient access and reduce barriers to choice of treatment.

Approach:

The multidisciplinary team at View St Medical involves GPs, practice administration, practice nurses and a practice pharmacist; each having an essential role in the establishment and running of the clinic. Practical considerations for clinic implementation will be presented including set-up logistics, clinic structure, specific healthcare professional roles and medication management. The management of missed appointments and troubleshooting will also be addressed and how this has changed over the past 2 years with increasing patient numbers.

Outcomes/Impact:

The View St Medical Cabenuva clinic has currently over 40 patients (growing weekly) and has had a positive impact on patient care, demonstrated through clinical outcomes and PozQol survey data. Specific examples of clinical interventions by the multidisciplinary team, such as drug-drug interactions, and improvements to medication adherence resulting in exceptional patient care will also be presented.

Innovation and Significance:

The View St Medical Cabenuva clinic is an example of how to implement and successfully execute such a clinic in General Practice in collaboration with public services. Showing it is achievable service that could be implemented across Australia with great benefit to patients. Further enhancing patient access to long-acting injectable treatment is a consideration for the future, with patients visiting different clinics at their convenience.

Costings of the service provided through a private GP Practice show it is not possible to provide without a "gap" contribution from the patient presenting a barrier to access and transfer to the community from the public system. We presented an innovative approach for interim funding form *Viiv Healthcare Limited to provide View St Medical with a part-time nurse to administer the service and provide Cabenuva*

injections and a loan fridge. This will allow the service to build to a sustainable number that will hopefully allow us to continue to provide the service at no fee to the patient after the funding period. This approach is now being rolled out by Viiv Healthcare nationwide.