

SUPPORTING PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV; A SHARED-CARE MODEL IN REGIONAL NEW SOUTH WALES.

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Background: People living with HIV (PLHIV) access care across a number of services in regional New South Wales (NSW). Access to specialist medical care is impacted by geographical distances, lack of antiretroviral prescribers and direct patient costs of consultations. Regional areas tend to have older PLHIV, who are more likely to have multimorbidity so integrated care is crucial.

Approach: Using a Cumulative Illness Rating Scale (CIRS), we are able to identify individuals with higher levels of multimorbidity, having a CIRS score of >10 (upper quartile of CIRS scores for population) across 4 Regional Sexual Health Services since 2016.

Through collaborative strategies supporting integration of care we hope to improve health outcomes for a significant population across NSW, particularly those with higher multimorbidity.

Outcomes: Over 300 individuals have been recruited onto a study of changes in multimorbidity over time. The strategies used to improve integration include pro-actively identifying patients GP's (high CIRS: more likely to have shared care with a GP (71.7% vs 48.1%, $p = 0.001$)) and letters to GP's (higher CIRS had higher mean number of letters to GP in previous year (1.3 vs 0.5, $p < 0.001$)).

Further, Care Co-ordination Meetings discussing clients with complex needs occur quarterly with Clinic staff and relevant NGOs; weekly review of electronic medical records identifies clients with recent hospital visits, allowing direct follow-up.

Strategies under development include monthly Collaborative Complex Case Meetings, involving sexual health and infectious disease staff and referral to a home medication review: a yearly visit by a pharmacist to support medication administration at home.

Significance/Innovation: The project encompasses a large geographical area, as well as a large HIV positive cohort. Any shared care model that is developed within our service could be used as a model for other Local Health Districts. Our work is supported by an ongoing study looking at multimorbidity over time, allowing us to measure successful health outcomes in our community and compare it to previous data

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