

## **A Medically Supervised Injecting Room as a gateway to health and social support**

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### **Introduction:**

People who inject drugs (PWID) often have multiple health and social needs. One of the objectives of the trial of a Medically Supervised Injecting Room in North Richmond was to link people to the health and social support they needed.

### **Method / Approach**

Initial consultations with local PWID indicated a preference for a "one-stop shop" model. With this in mind, the MSIR provides on-site services including BBV care, oral health care, drug treatment, mental health support, wound care, overdose prevention, food, housing, and legal services. Trauma-informed models of service delivery were developed, which sometimes involved the development of innovative treatment approaches, such as 90 minute test-to-treat pathway for hepatitis C, silver fluoride for dental caries, and rapid induction to long acting buprenorphine formulations.

### **Key Findings:**

MSIR clients reported high rates of health and social needs, but low rates of adequate existing health care. Opportunistic care with a trauma-informed one-stop shop model resulted in high rates of treatment/support uptake by clients. As of September 2021, more than 5000 people had used the MSIR more than 250,000 times in total. More than 70,000 services were provided including >200 hepatitis C treatment initiations, >330 opioid pharmacotherapy initiations, >1000 clients provided with accommodation, and >2500 referrals to external services.

### **Discussions and Conclusions:**

The MSIR has proven to be a powerful way of assisting a marginalised groups of clients to receive the support they need. MSIR clients appreciated on-site opportunistic care with flexible models of service delivery.

### **Disclosure of Interest Statement: No interests to declare**