

Improving delivery of comprehensive care for people living with HIV in regional Victoria, Australia

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Background:

With advances in antiretroviral therapy (ART), chronic disease management has increasingly become a priority in HIV care. The HIV Clinical Quality Registry (HCQR) was established by Alfred Health to improve HIV chronic disease management in tertiary services through an auditable, comprehensive database that enables collection of routine clinical and laboratory information in Victoria. Barwon Health provides specialist HIV care for the Victorian southwest region and was an early adopter of the HCQR.

Methods:

This retrospective cohort study assessed the proportion of HIV clinic attendees whose care met key performance indicators based on guideline-driven targets for preventative health measures including cardiovascular risk profiling, vaccination rates and screening for cancer and viral hepatitis. People that attended the Barwon Health HIV service between 1 September 2023 and 1 September 2024 were included.

Results:

77 patients (21 female, 55 male, one transwoman) were included. 98.7% (76/77) of participants were on ART, 94.8% (73/77) were virally suppressed (viral load of <200 copies) and annual in-person clinic attendance was 88.3% (68/77). Rates of lipid and glucose testing were 77.9% and 87.0% (respectively), while 89.6% (69/77) had been tested for hepatitis C and 80% had complete hepatitis B screening. Appropriate vaccination (based on funding and eligibility) varied for influenza (58.4%, 45/77), mpox (26.8%, 11/41), pneumococcus (67.5%, 52/77) and shingles (36.4%, 8/22). Of eligible participants, only 26.9% (7/26) and 25% (8/32) had completed anal cancer and bowel cancer screening (respectively) compared to 70% (14/20 - one participant ineligible secondary to age) being up-to-date with cervical cancer screening.

Conclusion:

Implementation of the HCQR has enabled valuable assessment of HIV preventative health measures, revealing high rates of compliance with cardiovascular risk profiling

and hepatitis screening recommendations. There are areas for improvement in preventive health, notably vaccination and cancer screening, to better optimize holistic HIV care.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

No conflicts of interest.