

Staff perspectives on using PozQol in clinical care at Western Sydney Sexual Health Centre

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Background/Purpose:

Our aim was to explore staff views and assess the feasibility of incorporating a patient reported outcome measure for quality of life (QOL), specifically PozQol, for people living with HIV (PLHIV) into routine clinical care at Western Sydney Sexual Health Centre (WSSHC).

Approach:

PozQol has been in routine clinical use at WSSHC since September 2020. In February 2022, all clinical staff were invited to participate in a short survey consisting of seven questions. This survey included a Likert scale for ease of use and usefulness rating, and three free text questions exploring clinical benefits, barriers, and suggestions for future use of the PozQol tool. Ethics approval was obtained from WSLHD Ethics committee.

Outcomes/Impact:

19 (83%) of 23 invited staff responded, including three social workers, six doctors and 10 nursing staff. 13/19 (68%) respondents had used PozQol in clinical practice. Of those who had used the tool, most found it easy or very easy to use (11/13, 85%) and somewhat or very useful (11/13, 85%). Overall, staff found it useful in identifying patients' concerns, facilitating referrals, prompting conversations around QOL, stigma and wellbeing, and providing holistic care. Key barriers for staff completing PozQol included time constraints, language barriers, unclear referral pathways and lack of embedding this tool into clinical care. Suggestions for the future use of PozQol at WSSHC included use of an electronic version of the tool, embedding into the wellbeing check, improving availability of PozQol in other languages, regular staff education and streamlining referrals to the social work team.

Innovation and Significance:

Staff reported using PozQol in routine clinical care as acceptable, easy to use and useful in providing holistic care to PLHIV. Future availability of an electronic version, which could be embedded into clinical care through electronic medical records, could facilitate ongoing use of PozQol at WSSHC.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare