

Approaches to providing care for overseas-born GBM living with HIV

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Acknowledgement of Country

I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land, the Kurna People
Sovereignty was never ceded and this was, and always will be, Aboriginal land.

Acknowledgements

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Community review:

Positive Asian Network Australia (PANA)

Positive Latinx Australia Network (PLAN)

Funding:

Viiv Healthcare

Background

- Overseas born gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men living with HIV experience increased challenges to engaging with HIV care:
 - Concerns about the impact of HIV on visa status
 - Confidentiality concerns
 - Unfamiliar healthcare system
 - HIV and LGBTQ+ stigma in healthcare systems
 - Understanding HIV as an untreatable health condition

Methods

We developed a practice guide for clinicians providing HIV care to overseas-born GBM living with HIV

- 4 community consultations:
 - 2 x consultations with overseas-born GBM living with HIV (14 participants in total)
 - 2 x consultations with healthcare workers (10 participants in total)
- Draft guidelines developed and sent for community feedback from:
 - Positive Asian Network Australia
 - Positive Latinx Australia Network
- Currently under review by clinicians

Recommendation: Migration

Many people, they're dealing with other issues as well as an HIV diagnosis ... whether they'll ever get PR or a visa. As [healthcare workers], we need to be aware of that to be really able to support them (FG3, P2, Healthcare worker).

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I think [migration] is important: not that the doctor tells you the [visa] information, but the referral pathways (FG1, P6, living with HIV).

Recommendation: Peer Support

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For me there was definitely a lot going on [after being diagnosed]. ... [It was] too much having that blast of information (FG1, P2, living with HIV).

Recommendation: U=U communication

“The doctors said I am undetectable but didn’t explain what that means. ... I had no idea. I knew I was fine physically, but I didn’t know what undetectable means really” (FG1, P5, living with HIV).

Conclusion

- Particularly useful for those new to providing HIV care to overseas-born GBM.
- In development: email nwells@kirby.unsw.edu.au for more details and/or a copy of the final version