

THE SOCIAL BENEFITS OF SUCCESSFUL DAA THERAPY BEYOND CURE: A STRUCTURAL COMPETENCY APPROACH

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Background:

Despite the extraordinary developments in the clinical science of HCV treatment, there is much more to understand about the decisions of people with experience of injecting drugs about HCV treatment and how the health care workforce can best support HCV elimination efforts. This presentation will examine issues of measurement of DAA treatment benefit using the emerging framework of structural competency to assist health workers in developing new engagement and care practices.

Methods:

This presentation will present an overview of three bodies of scholarship: the social science of engagement in and perceived benefits of HCV treatment; the measurement of patient reported outcomes measures; and, the emerging literature on structural competency.

Results:

It is well established that “patients” seek and experience outcomes of therapy that differ from the views of clinicians and researchers. People who inject drugs undertaking HCV treatment have identified a range of social, relational and informational issues as desired outcomes of HCV treatment. A structural competency framework can assist health workers in understanding how socioeconomic status, race, sexuality and other markers of difference and the actions and policies of the health system (including measurement of outcomes) produce and sustain inequalities that marginalise and stigmatise patients and ultimately shape health decisions, actions and outcomes.

Conclusion:

As the worldwide effort to eliminate HCV as a public health problem gains momentum, more sophisticated approaches will be needed to ensure that the most vulnerable people living with HCV are not left behind. This requires a close examination of the ways in which health systems work to be more attractive to and inclusive of those living with disadvantage. Using a structural competency approach to understanding the outcomes of treatment from the perspective of people who inject drugs will aid in these elimination efforts.

Disclosure of Interest Statement: None to report