APPLYING IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE TO SCALE HEPATITIS C MODELS OF CARE: THE INHSU HCV INTERVENTION SYMPOSIUM SERIES

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Background:
Despite the availability of highly effective direct-acting antivirals (DAA's), interventions for hepatitis C virus (HCV) testing and treatment remain inconsistently. While evidence-based models of care exist, services frequently struggle to translate knowledge into practice due to system-level, operational and policy barriers. There is an urgent need to systematically examine implementation challenges and facilitators to strengthen the international evidence base for scalable, equitable, person-centred HCV care.

Description of model of care/program:
INHSU's global HCV Intervention Symposium Series is a one-day, highly interactive capacity-building program for providers working with people who use drugs. In late 2025, the program was re-designed to embed an explicit implementation science focus. Alongside clinical and epidemiological content, participants are guided to apply the Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research (CFIR) to diagnose context-specific barriers and facilitators, and RE-AIM (Reach, Effectiveness, Adoption, Implementation, and Maintenance) framework to design practical strategies for adoption, scale-up and sustainability. The program culminates in a structured activity where multidisciplinary teams develop tailored six-month implementation plans for their facility.

Effectiveness:
At the symposium held in Baltimore, Maryland in November 2025, 59 participants identified shared barriers—including workforce constraints, fragmented electronic medical records and data systems, stigma and provider confidence and challenges maintaining continuity of care—alongside feasible, context-specific solutions. Teams left with 6-month action plans that prioritised interventions such as care navigation, staff training and strengthened community partnerships. Participants reported increased confidence in initiating or expanding HCV services and identified immediate implementation steps.

Conclusion and next steps:
By integrating implementation science into a practical education model, the INHSU HCV Intervention Symposia Series bridges the knowing–doing gap for scaling up HCV service delivery. Attendees will gain transferable tools to identify local implementation challenges, select targeted facilitators and design sustainable HCV models of care. This approach contributes to a growing, practice-based evidence base to inform coordinated HCV elimination efforts across diverse settings.

Disclosure of Interest:
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